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MOD Form 329D (Revised 3/83)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Date opened

20 MAY 86

Registered file number D/Sec (AS) 12/3

Part No. 8

1. **Attention is drawn to the notes on the inside flap**
2. **Enter notes of related files on page 2 of this jacket.**

DIVISION/ESTABLISHMENT/UNIT/BRANCH

Sec (AS)2A

SUBJECT

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

-CORRESPONDANCE-

Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl	Referred to	Date	Min/ Encl

CLOSED
N[illegible]
[illegible]
ENCLOSURES
MUST BE PLACED
IN THIS FILE

Debra Bere AS3 303 S-4

File Ref: SEC(AS)12/3

Part: 8

FOR DRO USE ONLY

1st Review date

2nd Review date

Sent Out Date: 25-4-94

RCU000112108 TNT

(MOD Form 262F must be completed)

Section 40

n DR2e2
rne Avenue
...es Middx UB3 1RF

26 SEP 1994

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

Printed for Her Majesty's Stationery Office by (P.L.) 6/85 Dd. 8415487

Section 40 [redacted] Can you put on file by 12/3

Section 40 [redacted]

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

The sole interest of the Ministry of Defence in reported sightings of UFOs is to establish whether they have any bearing on the defence of the country.

Clearly some reports remain unexplained but we have found no evidence that these phenomena represent a threat to national security and therefore cannot justify devoting Defence resources to their investigations.

UFO INTERVIEW

Q1. Why will the MOD not release UFO information for scientific or other investigation?

A1. The Department is happy to release what information we have on specific incidents. However we could not justify the effort involved in searching for or collating information of a more general nature.

Q2. What are MOD criteria for establishing defence implications or otherwise in the case of UFO sightings?

A2. There can be no strict criteria laid down to determine whether the defence of the nation has or will be impugned. This must remain a judgement based on military expertise in analysing the information available and by collating reports and, wherever possible, radar traces.

Q3. What are the procedures followed when a UFO sighting is reported to the MOD?

Q4. Are any of these sightings actually investigated or merely put on file?

Q5. If further investigation is made, who makes it?

A3-5. All reports received by the MOD are channelled through our Air Staff Secretariat. They are passed to the Air Staff who examine them for Air Defence implications. In some cases where (on the face of it) there could be a defence interest, enquiries are made of relevant

radar establishments etc in order to obtain more information. Having satisfied ourselves that the sightings are of no Defence interest we do not attempt any further investigations. I should say that the majority of the reports received here are 2 to 3 days, sometimes weeks, old. Although some reports remain unexplained, we have found no evidence that these phenomena represent a threat to national security and therefore cannot justify devoting Defence resources to their investigation.

Q6. Is there a British UFO investigation unit based at RAF Rudloe Manor in Wiltshire?

A6. The Flying Complaints Flight at Rudloe Manor are concerned with receiving and investigating complaints concerning military aircraft. In the course of their duties they occasionally receive UFO reports (as do many other units) but they have no specific role with regard to this subject.

Q7. Is there such a unit based anywhere else in the UK?

A7. No.

Q8. Has there ever been such a unit in the UK In the past?

A8. Certainly not in the past thirty years.

Q9. Is there any international co-operation between the MOD and other Governments on UFO intelligence?

A9. No.

Q10. If there have been no defence implications concerning the thousands of UFO reports made to the MOD over the years, what conclusions has the Ministry reached?

A10. The Ministry will continue to examine all reports we receive to ascertain whether there are any defence implications. If members of the public feel that for scientific or other reasons, there should be an attempt to establish the causes of such phenomena, that is for them, but we are confident that it is not something in which the MOD should or need become further involved.

Q11. Did the MOD assist the House of Lords UFO Study Group?

A11. ?

Q12. A former Chief of the Defence Staff, Lord Hill-Norton, says major investigations into UFOs have been conducted by the United States and other Governments and it is inconceivable that such an investigation has not been conducted here. Is this the case?

A12. Probably the most notable study into the UFO phenomena was carried out by the University of Colorado and published in 1969. This concluded that 90% of all UFOs reported could be plausibly related to ordinary phenomena. Project "Blue Book", a US Government study of UFO's was terminated in 1969. It concluded that although thousands of sightings had been investigated there was nothing to indicate the existence of UFO's. Nothing has come to light since to change that view. In the UK a report was produced by the then Air Ministry in 1955. Its conclusions were basically the same.

Q13. Numerous sightings have been made over the years by airline and military pilots, police officers and other professional people. Many of these reports would, on the face of it, have defence implications. Why does the Ministry think otherwise?

A13. Many of the reports received in MOD come through official channels, although the vast majority of these come originally from members of the public. Very few reports have been made by pilots; indeed in the last 18 months the MOD has received only 5 such reports. All reports are treated on merit; if the MOD receives a report which conceivably could have defence implications then further investigations are made to ascertain whether or not this is the case.

Q14. UFO investigators say the MOD is involved in a massive cover-up. Is this the case? If not, why do you not shut these people up once and for all by providing access to the information they seek?

A14. I can assure you that there is no question of attempting to cover up any incident, nor are we attempting in any way to obscure the truth. The Department is happy to release what information we have on specific incidents which have no security significance. However, as I have already mentioned, we could not justify the effort and simply do not have the resources to become involved in searching for or collating information of a more general nature.

Q15. If the Ministry's first and only knowledge of the RAF Woodbridge affair was the Col Halt memo dated January 13th - 17 days after the alleged incident - is the Ministry not concerned, in the light of the information contained within that memo, that it was not consulted by the American authorities much sooner?

A15. No. The American authorities obviously took the same view as ourselves that the incident was adequately investigated by Col Halt and that therefore no further action was required.

Q16. If the MOD feels there were no defence implications in the Woodbridge incident, does it consider Col Halt was hallucinating, insane or merely lying?

A16. No, of course not. Col Halt rightly investigated a report by his base guards of some unexplained phenomena outside the base. On consideration of what was reported to him and of his own subsequent investigations he decided to send a report to the MOD for information. He did not recommend any further action, nor was any thought necessary.

Q17. If the Ministry subscribed to any of these theories relating to Col Halt, why did it sanction his promotion from deputy to base commander subsequent to the incident?

A17. We do not subscribe to any of these theories relating to Col Halt.

Q18. Would you give any credence to the notion that the UFO phenomenon has been exploited to cover up sensitive military operations?

A18. None whatsoever.

Registered File Disposal Form

MOD Form 262F
(Revised 10/97)

FILE TITLE: (Main Heading - Secondary Heading - Tertiary Heading etc)

UFOs - Correspondence

Reference:
(Prefix and Number): DISC(AS) 12/3

Part: B

PROTECTIVE MARKING (including caveats & descriptors): UIC

Date of last enclosure: 28.9.87

Date closed: 28.9.87

PART 1. DISPOSAL SCHEDULE RECOMMENDATION
(To be completed when the file is closed)

	✓
Destroy after _____ years	☐
Forward to CS(RM) after _____ years	☐
No recommendation	☐

FOR CS(RM) USE ONLY

Date of 1st review	Date of 2nd review	Forward Destruction Date

Reviewer's Signature: _____

Reviewer's Signature: _____

PART 2. BRANCH REVIEW
(To be completed not later than 4 years after the date of the last enclosure)
(Delete as appropriate)

a. Of no further administrative value and not worthy of permanent preservation. DESTROY IMMEDIATELY (Remember that TOP SECRET and Codeword material cannot be destroyed locally and must be forwarded to CS(RM)). ✓ ☐

b. (i) To be retained for _____ years (from date of last enclosure) for the following reason(s):

	✓		✓	
LEGAL	☐	DEFENCE POLICY + OPERATIONS	☐	
CONTRACTUAL	☐	ORIGINAL COMMITTEE PAPERS	☐	
FINANCE/AUDIT	☐	MAJOR EQUIPMENT PROJECT	☐	[_____]
DIRECTORATE POLICY	☐	OTHER (Specify)	☐	

PRO - 1/90

(Continued overleaf)

(ii) Key enclosures which support the recommendation are:

(iii) At the end of the specified retention period the file is to be:

Destroyed ☐

Considered by CS(RM) for permanent preservation ☑

c. Of no further administrative value but worthy of consideration by CS(RM) for permanent preservation. ☑

PART 3. BRANCH REVIEW[redacted]R

Signature: Section 40 [redacted]

Name: [redacted]
(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: HEO Date: 23/11/99
(Not below HEO/equivalent)

Branch Title and Full Address: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
ROOM Section 40
MAIN BUILDING
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1 2HB

Tel No: Section 40 [redacted]

PART 4 DESTRUCTION CERTIFICATE

It is certified that the specified file has been destroyed.

Signature: _____

Name: _____
(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____ Date: _____

Witnessed by (TOP SECRET* and SECRET only)

Signature: _____

Name: _____
(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____ Date: _____

*(FOR CS(RM) USE ONLY)

D1/23

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

E101

file copy

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference D/Sec(AS)12/3

Date 23 September 1987

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your recent letters.

Your letter of 21 August asked for any information that we might have on sightings made in the London and Midlands areas on Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 August 1987. Having checked through our records I can confirm that we received only one report which relates to the details that you gave. This particular sighting was made at Pinner, Middlesex and I attach a copy of the report for your information. We have no other reports for these two dates. I have also found out that there was no air defence activity in these areas on the two nights in question.

Going on to your letter of 25 August, you requested copies of reports that we might have on sightings made between 14 and 21 October 1986. As I mentioned in my letter of 19 August, we are unable to release material en bloc as all MOD files are subject to the Public Records Act. However, if you have any specific queries about a particular incident which has occurred recently we can let you know if we have a report for it, and if so what it contains.

Thank you for providing further information on the sighting reported by Holmfirth Police on 2 November 1986. I have contacted Aeronautical Information Services (Military) RAF West Drayton and am pleased to say that I have found the series of reports for this particular incident. Copies of the reports are attached for your information. As is our policy, the names of those who submitted the reports have been deleted.

I hope that this is of some help.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

See 34/2 of this file

Section 40 [redacted] Section 40

[redacted] 5/10 elsewhere.

01 (Ecoli)

We have now heard from 87 58" and GE(AEW) and we have 2 reports for the period 3-5 Aug for the West Country region and GE(AEW) confirm that there was a respelling exercise in 4/8 involving VC10's. My reply to Section 40, who hasn't written before incorporates his information.

Section 40 [redacted]

1/10

(E100/1)

MEMORANDUM

MOD Form 4A

To GE (AEW) GE3

From Sec (AS) 2a

Date 24 Sept 87

Tel. Section 40

Your ref. D/Asst 3/6/3

Our ref. D/Sec (AS) 12/3

Subject UFO's - Letter From Section 40 Esq.

1. Please find attached a letter from Section 40 Esq which appears to correspond to an earlier letter written by Section 40 - which I believe you already have.

2. You have already told me that there was no aircraft activity on 4/5 August and that nothing was seen by RAF units in the vicinity of the sighting. However, would you please check the statement about "2 VC10s being engaged in tanker operations" on the night in question.

Telecon Section 40 & 30/09

Section 40 W/C [redacted] said that there was a refuelling exercise involving VC10 tanker aircraft on 4/8. It passed over Bristol, Somerset and North Devon. The exercise took place from 2100 → 2130 hours. 30/9

Rank/ Appointment ED Sec (AS) 2a

Name in Block Letters Section 40

Signature Section 40 [redacted]

MEMORANDUM

MOD Form 4A (E100)

To SEC (AS), Room [redacted] MB.

From SEC (NS) A [redacted]

Date 22 Sept 87

Tel. [redacted]

Your ref.

Our ref. D/Sec(NS)/14/14

22/3
No action necessary

Subject MOVEMENTS OF HMS NORFOLK

1. Please find enclosed a copy of the letter received from [redacted] of the Cheshire U.F.O Studies Centre.
2. I also attach a copy of my memo to NHB asking for their advice. After speaking to the NHB it turns out that [redacted] misread my memo and replied direct.
3. You may like to keep for your files.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
23 SEP 1987
FILE 12/3

[redacted]

Rank/ Appointment

Name in Block Letters [redacted]

Signature

NAVAL STAFF DUTIES (HISTORICAL SECTION)
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE Room Section 40
Empress State Building London SW6 1TR

Telephone Section 40

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/NHB/9/2/17C

Date
3 September 1987

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 24 August 1987, which has been forwarded to this Section for reply.

Between 6 December 1980 and 14 January 1981 HMS NORFOLK was at Portsmouth for an Assisted Maintenance Period combined with leave.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

SFJ/22

E98

X 3235

MEMORANDUM

MOD Form 4A

To NHB

From SEC (NS) A

Date 28 Aug 87

Tel. Section 40

Your ref.

Our ref. D/SEC(NS)/14/19

Subject MOVEMENTS OF HMS NORFOLK

1 Please see the attached letter concerning the movements of HMS NORFOLK during 29 Dec - 7 Jan 1981.

2 I would be grateful for any advice you can give as to the whereabouts of the ship at that time.

Many Thanks

Section 40

Rank/ Appointment AO

Name in Block Letters Section 40

Signature Section 40

E97

CHESHIRE U.F.O. STUDIES CENTRE.

Est 1985

All Reports treated in Strict Confidence

Section 40

Tele::

24th August 1987.

To The Secretariat (Naval Staff),
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
LONDON,
SW1A 2HB.

Ref:8/87/EM.

Dear Sir,

I am enquiring to the movements of H.M.S. NORFOLK, during the dates between 29th December 1980 and 7th January 1981.

I am writing to ask this information for a project CUFOSC are conducting into alleged U.F.O. sightings observed over East Anglia and this area of Coastline during the dates above mentioned.

I have reason to beleive that H.M.S. NORFOLK may have been tracking a Soviet Task Unit, in that area, and may have been under 'F.O.S.I.' orders at the time. Would you be able to confirm this for me please?.

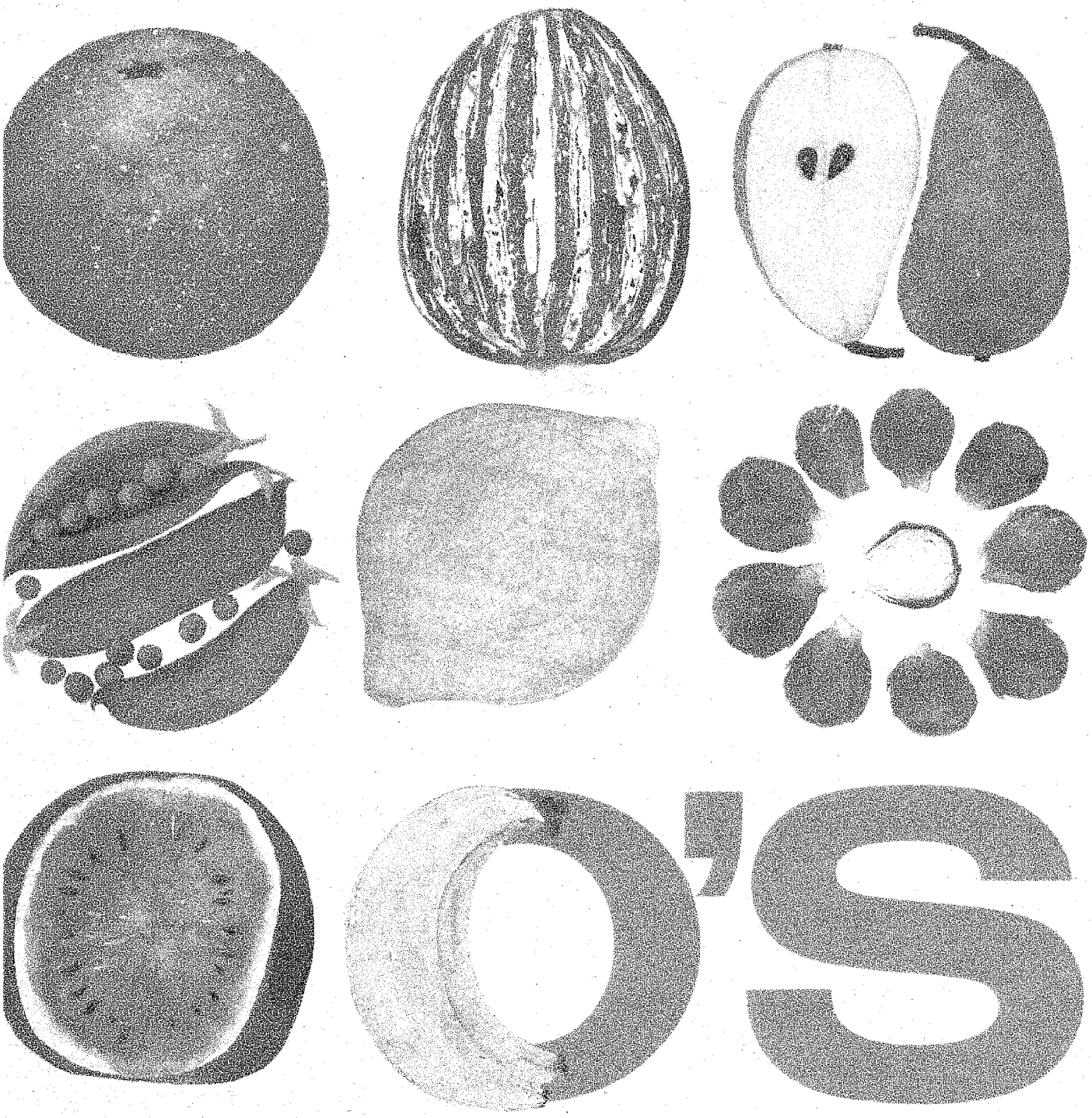
Although I independently investigate Unidentified Flying Objects, I do this working with fact and not heresay.

Any information you provide will be treated in the strictest of confidence, as I am bound by the Official Secrets Act myself, being an ex - Petty Officer Medical Assistant.

Yours Faithfully,

Section 40

12/3
Section 40
E96
2/9

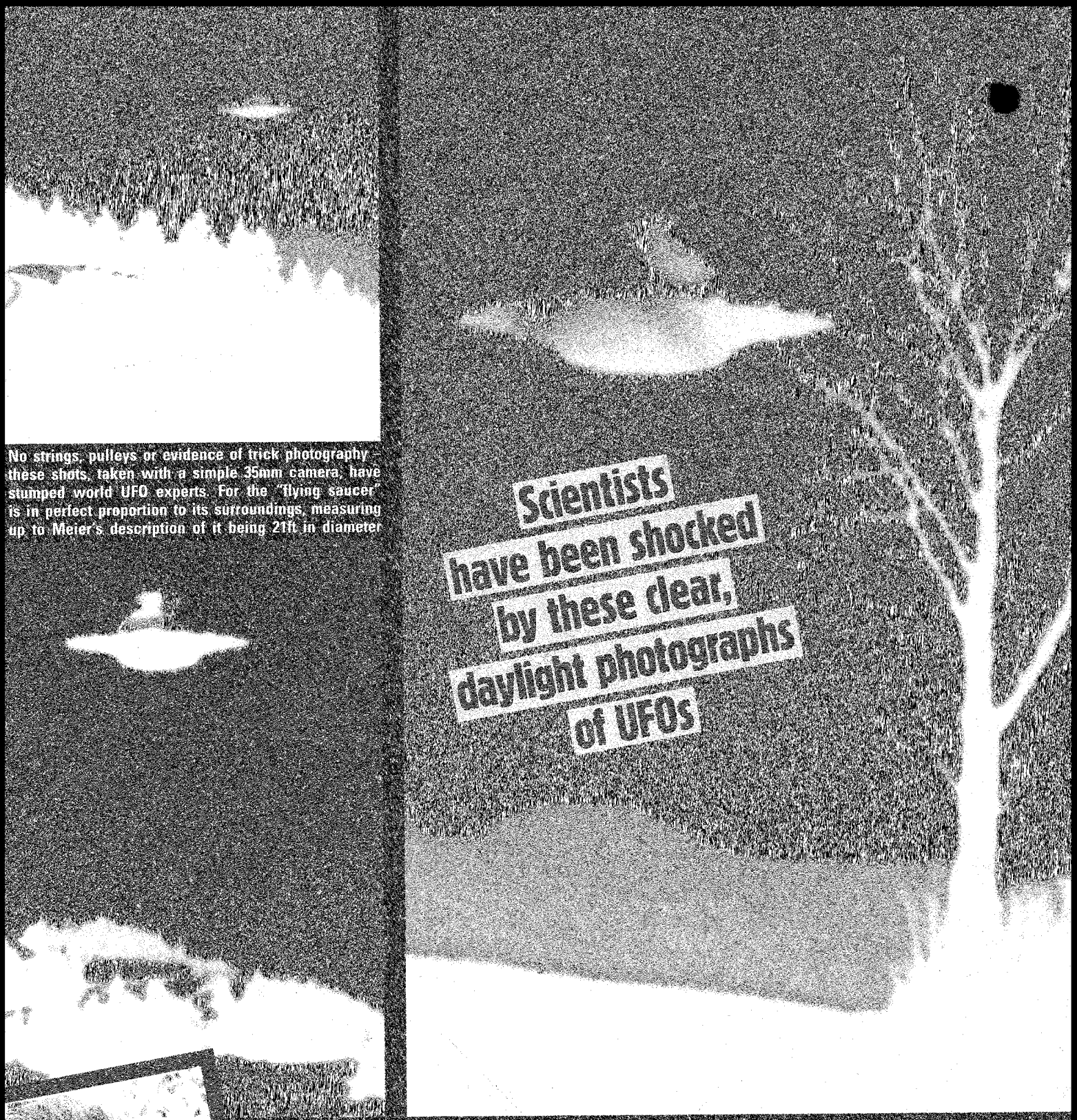


ıste the freshness.

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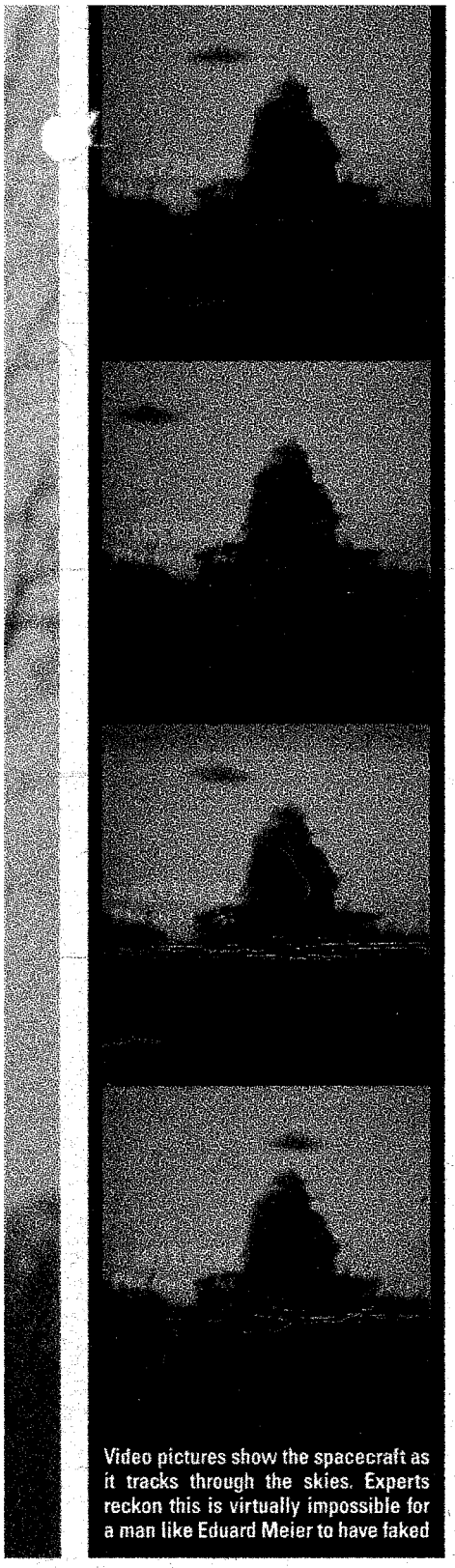


No strings, pulleys or evidence of trick photography – these shots, taken with a simple 35mm camera, have stumped world UFO experts. For the "flying saucer" is in perfect proportion to its surroundings, measuring up to Meier's description of it being 21ft in diameter

Scientists have been shocked by these clear, daylight photographs of UFOs

THEY CAME FR

A SWISS FARMER HAS TAKEN THESE REMARKABLE PHOTOGRAPHS. HE SA



Video pictures show the spacecraft as it tracks through the skies. Experts reckon this is virtually impossible for a man like Eduard Meier to have faked



One of Meier's hundreds of pictures, above, shows what he explains as an accompanying remote control craft, while in another, below, a Swiss Air Force fighter on manoeuvres is snapped in the distance. No threat to the spaceship, which travels along at millions of times the speed of light!



Eduard Meier has no money, little education and only one arm. Yet he claims to be in regular contact with beings from outer space, and to have taken these photos of their ship. Truth or a hoax? Light Years, a controversial new book, has the facts to help you decide...

Locals in the Swiss village of Hinwil had always thought Meier "different". They knew he supported his Greek wife Popi and three children on a disability pension, for the loss of an arm in a bus accident. In the past he'd been sent to reform school for stealing, joined the Foreign Legion and had studied philosophy with Buddhist monks.

But no one suspected just how "different" Meier was. For he claims that, since the age of five, he has been telepathically contacted by alien beings from a planet 500 light years from earth, in a star cluster known as the Pleiades.

"It happens like a shot," he says. "Like a cool wind going across your forehead." These messages, he claims, directed him to remote locations, where the aliens landed a spaceship about 21ft across and met him.

At first, many people laughed, certain that it was all one huge hoax. But then Meier produced the evidence – scores of clear, daylight colour photographs, showing the spaceship hovering above the trees.

And he showed them a diary, several hundred pages long, in which he had recorded his meetings and conversations with Semjase, a 330-year-old female alien. Those who read this found it beautifully written, full of scientific facts and ideas a man of Meier's limited knowledge would never be able to dream up.

And so UFO experts from all over the world began to arrive at Meier's home – most of them determined to catch him out.

One man, Hans Schutzbach, went along to a meadow, where Meier recorded a strange sound, like a high-pitched cross between a jet engine and a chainsaw, which he said came from the spaceship. Later Schutzbach secretly went back to the meadow and tried to re-create the sound, using the tape he and Meier had made. But the speakers and amplifiers were obvious in the trees, and the sound was distant and weak – nothing like before.

Meier amazed all the experts. He gave detailed accounts of the alien lifestyle, world and science. He showed perfectly round "landing tracks" in the grass no one could reproduce. He appeared from nowhere, dry and warm in the pouring rain, and claimed that he'd been "beamed" down from the aliens' spaceship.

Witnesses also told of strange powers Meier apparently possessed. He held a ▷

DM OUTER SPACE...

EY ARE SPACECRAFT FROM ANOTHER WORLD – SO FAR SCIENTISTS CAN'T PROVE HIM WRONG

two-franc piece in his hand while his whole body shook violently. When he opened his hand, the coin was black and his palm blistered from the heat.

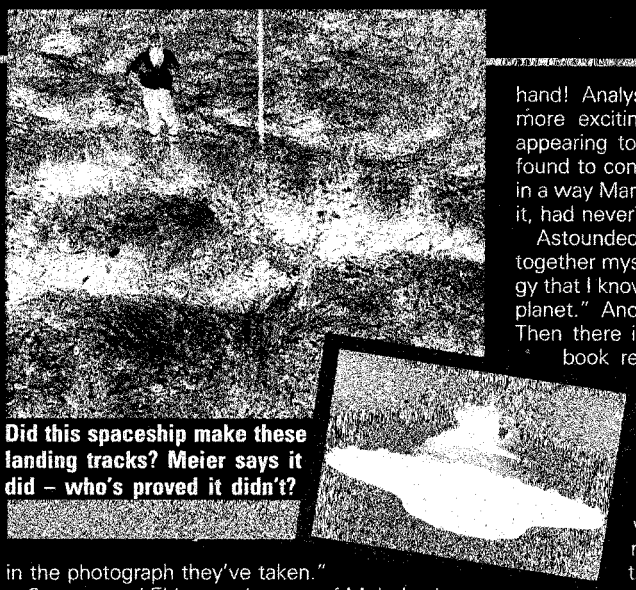
Under the strain of it all, and the ridicule that her children had to suffer, Meier's wife attempted suicide. But all the time, his stock of UFO pictures was growing, until Meier had hundreds. And it is these that have most baffled the scientists. Harold Proch, a professional photographer, studied them closely for signs of models or trick photography. He explains, "For a montage to look real you need a dark background. But almost all of Meier's photos show the ships in a bright blue sky." Daylight UFO pictures are very, very rare.

Proch sneaked into Meier's study and he went through every box, drawer and shelf, searching for models, sketches, experimental film – anything to indicate a hoax. But he found nothing.

Wendelle Stevens, a former US Air Force Intelligence officer, who has spent over 30 years looking into UFO reports, also made a careful study of Meier's photographic sites.

Of one site, Stevens says, "There was no way Meier could have rigged anything because there are no trees around where the picture was taken, no poles – and the ground falls away downhill. We couldn't find anything that we could run wires to. There was no way he could have run a string of wires alone in any case – getting up and down trees with one arm."

Using measuring techniques, Stevens and co-investigators, Lee Elders and Tom Welch, worked out that the spaceship seen in Meier's pictures must have been around 21 feet in diameter – just as he had claimed. "That's often a simple mistake people make when they're hoaxing," Welch says. "The ship they film just couldn't be the size they say it is when compared with other known objects



Did this spaceship make these landing tracks? Meier says it did – who's proved it didn't?

in the photograph they've taken."

Stevens and Elders took some of Meier's photographs – and specimens of metal he claimed came from the spaceship – back to the States. And, after magnifying the pictures 10 times and scanning them with sophisticated equipment, a specialist still found nothing to indicate a hoax.

Top Hollywood special effects man, Wally Gentleman, says: "If someone is faking those shots, they have an expert there. This Meier had to have a fleet of clever assistants, at least 15 people, who would know all about angles, lighting and how to support this object so that wires are not seen."

And, he adds, to produce similar faked photos in a studio would cost £20,000 – and require equipment costing another £30,000. Meier says he used an old 35mm camera with a broken viewfinder and jammed focus, that was easy to work with one hand! Analysis of his metal samples was even more exciting. For one small triangle of metal, appearing to be an alloy of silver and go[illegible] as found to contain many elements bonded together in a way Marcel Vogel, the scientist who examined it, had never come across before.

Astounded, he admitted, "I couldn't put this together myself as a scientist... with any technology that I know of, we could not achieve this on this planet." Another mystery with no explanation... Then there is Meier's strange knowledge. In his book recording his meetings with Semjase and the other aliens, Meier says they told him about their system of space travel, which enables them to travel vast distances through time at millions of times the speed of light.

Says Welch: "Meier wrote down what he had been told about the method of travel. We did learn later that for some time NASA had been working on it as a propulsion method.

"Also in the notes were conversations about the universe, healing methods and advanced medical equipment that just did not make sense coming from a man in the remote Swiss countryside."

However, some of the numerous UFO investigation groups in the US still dismiss Eduard Meier as a hoaxer. Though they can't prove how a man with no money, no laboratory, no accomplices, a simple camera and one arm has faked "by far the best UFO pictures ever taken".

But many scientists now believe intelligent life probably exists on other planets. Perhaps Eduard Meier can contact that life. What do you think?

Adapted by Roy Stockdill from LIGHT YEARS by Gary Kinder, to be published by Viking on September 17 at £10.95. *© Gary Kinder and Intercep, 1987*

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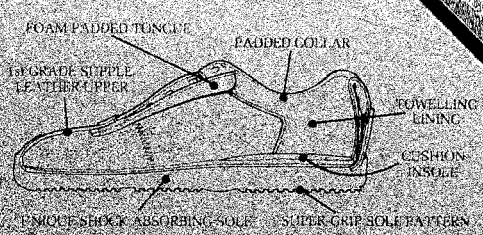
These beautifully made shoes are ideal casual wear or sportswear. They are extremely comfortable, hard wearing, perfect for all your leisure and especially for those of you who are planning active holidays.

The uppers are made from 1st grade leather which is soft, supple and durable. The soles are made from a composition which gives a really good grip. They are well constructed with a padded fabric insole support, a padded tongue and collar for comfort and a towelling lining. They come in two smart colours, white with blue trim or smoke grey, both with colour co-ordinated soles in sizes 6-11 with half sizes.

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MEMORANDUM

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(E95/2)

MOD Form 4A

12/3

To Reference desk
PRO
Kew Gardens
London

Section 40

Date 16 Sep 87

Your ref. —

From Sec (AS) 2a
Room [redacted] Main Building
Whitehall SW1

Section 40

AMB [redacted]

Tel. Section 40

Section 40

Our ref. D/Sec (AS) 12/3

Subject UFO CORRESPONDENCE — CHURCHILL DOCUMENTS

1. Please find attached a copy of a letter from Mr Section 40 from Workington, Cumbria. Section 40 is one of our regular UFO "correspondents." He has heard of some so-called "Churchill Documents" which apparently relate to UFOs. We are unaware of such documents but wonder if you may be able to trace the papers that Section 40 refers to.

2. I would be grateful if you would look through your archives and see if you can find any of these papers. I regret that I have no further information to offer you. Thanks for your help.

Section 40 [redacted] S/O Miss Section 40

Rang PRO — Section 40 on 05/10. He said that this was being looked into and that PRO would reply direct to Section 40 This being the case, I asked for a copy. After I have obtained an answer from AHB(RAF) — may ring this morning, I will write to [redacted] stating that his letter has been forwarded to PRO for a reply.

Section 40

Rank/ ~~Grade~~
Appointment .....

Name in Block Letters Section 40 [redacted]

Signature Section 40 [redacted] S/O

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
FILE 12/3

Section 40 [redacted]

CIVIL (E95/1)

20/8/87.

Pse sgh to [redacted].

Section 40

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your reply dated, 17 Aug 87, regarding the "churchill-Documents" on the subject of, UFO's.

I have enclosed some information of which may be of help with your search. As you requested.

*(1) Prime Ministers personal minute Serial N° - M 412/52 (2) Defence Research Subject files; BF - ? - 852. Dated; 28 July 1952.

(3) MR churchill's Reply letter, Dated; 14 August 1952. (4) Defence Research.

MoD letter to MR churchill, Dated; 9 August 1952. Defence Research.

I hope the enclosed data is of some use? I would like to remain totally confidential on the source of my own information, of course.

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

I look forward to your reply on the above enclosed.

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

E95
+2

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

file copy

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference D/Sec(AS)12/3

Date 16 September 1987

Dear Section 40

Thank you for the report of an unusual sighting you made just outside Wetheringsett on 21 August 1987 which has been passed to me by RAF Wattisham.

You may find it helpful if I explain that whilst we do receive and co-ordinate some information about UFO sightings, the main concern of the Ministry of Defence is to determine whether or not Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they do, and this is not normally the case, no attempt is made by MOD to investigate or identify the objects.

Your report has been referred to the staff in the department which is responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom and it has been examined as part of their normal duties. We are satisfied that the events you described are of no defence significance.

I hope that this is of help.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

[redacted] Section 40

OK.

UFOs

The attached came in last week. Draft reply attached.

[redacted] Section 40

24/9

Section 40 [redacted]

16/9

(594/3)

15-9-87

Section 40 [redacted]

reply sent 29/9/87

Dear Sir,

I wrote to you on the 13th July 1987 with regard to unidentified flying objects. U.F.O.s. it was stated in your reply of the 5th August that the MOD would release information appertaining to specific UFO incidents which have occurred recently. Since I am interested in reports of alledged unknowns for the period 1980 - 87 which originate from the S.E. region, I feel that your department may possess reports that are still active at this time, and I would very much appreciate it if you could possibly release some material regarding UFO phenomena for the above period. I do not wish to mention specific incidents which have been reported from the Aldershot and Farnborough localities. Since the MOD are most likely not going to wish to discuss incidents which have occurred in close proximity to M.O.D. installations. but I feel that certain material originating from this area could be of interest to me and some no relation to defence or security matters. I do hope that my request can be seriously considered.

Awaiting you in anticipation.

Section 40 [redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
16 SEP 1987
FILE 12/3

15.

Section 40

[redacted]

23/0

With the Compliments
of
West Yorkshire Metropolitan
Police

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
- 9 SEP 1987
FILE 12/3

WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

(E94/12 (11 OF 7 PAGES))

Reference: [redacted] Ext. [redacted]

MINUTE SHEET

Subject

SIGHTING OF UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT

Station: [redacted] Date: 7 November 1986

[redacted]

With reference to the marginally-named subejct, at 3.35 a.m. Sunday, 2 November 1986, I was on duty in company with [redacted] Section 40 Section 40 We were travelling in a Police car along Greenfield Road (A635) in a north easterly direction towards Holmfirth, Huddersfield. Greenfield Road is an open moorland road between Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire, most of which is of a high exposed nature.

Approximately one mile from the Greater Manchester border, we were at a height of about 1500 feet and ahead of us in the distance in the sky we saw an illuminated unidentified object. This took the form of a continuous but intermittent yellow/red light of a uniform roundish shape. There was no sound or smell coming from it. It was at about 20° on the horizon hovering but moving slightly in all directions from its axis.

Having stopped, the object was viewed from a static position in the open air with the naked eye for about twenty minutes, until a distant cloud obscured it. During these observations the object remained in the same form.

It was difficult to assess the distance of the object but it appeared to be about 20 miles away relative to the geography of the land.

Emley Moor mast,which is a concrete and steel television and transmitting station, is about 1200 feet tall,with a maximum height about sea level of about 2100 feet. It could be clearly seen slightly to the right of the object, which appeared twice the height above it. The map grid reference of the mast is 130223,a distance from us of about 12 miles.

The size of the object light was similar to one of the mast's warning lights but not quite as powerful.

The weather was fine and dry, visibility was very good, there was very little cloud base with the exception of low altitude whispy cloud in the distance,which was in the vicinity of the object. The object was above this cloud but eventually was obscured by it, the wind was slight, air temperature was about 4°C, conditions were ideal for astronomical observations.

Manchester Airport Air Traffic Control were contacted at the time and they reported that no aeroplanes were flying in their control area.

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
- 9 SEP 1987
FILE 12/3

1.

WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

Reference:

MINUTE SHEET

Subject

POSSIBLE UFO SIGHTING

Station: [redacted] Date: 6 November 1986

[redacted]

I have to report, in compliance with FSO No.2 dated 10.1.86 paragraph 15 appendix B, that on Sunday, 2 November 1986 I was on mobile patrol duty in uniform at Cherry Tree Court Old Folks Home, Shepley, in company with [redacted] Section 40

About 4.20am this date, as a result of a request by M2XW control, [redacted] Section 40 2 members of staff from the home and myself went outside and looked towards Emley Moor mast, which lies in a north east direction from where we were located.

To the right of the mast and apparently at a similar height to the mast, I could see 2 fairly bright lights, apparently stationary. I observed these lights for some 3 or 4 minutes before they moved off in a more easterly direction, out of my view, behind a cloud.

I could hear no sound at any time or see any distinct shape.

I have no idea what the object was, but due to the fact that it was stationary, it was definitely not a normal commercial or private aircraft.

I have not received any enquiry from the media.

To my knowledge a further 9 people saw these lights.

[redacted] Section 40

WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

Reference: [redacted] Section 40

MINUTE SHEET

Subject

:PORTED UFO
:GHTING

Station: [redacted] Date: 24 November 1986

[redacted] Section 40

On Saturday, 2 November 1986 at approximately 04.40 hours I was on duty in the Kirkburton Section area. At this time I heard XW control dealing with a reported UFO sighting generated by ED units. I went to the location given for the UFO and submit the following information as required by Force General Order:-

1) Duration of sighting was approximately 5 minutes each on two occasions, 15 minutes apart from two different locations.

2) Description was one bright round light which appeared slightly green. It appeared to me to be a planet low in the sky. No sound or smell

3) The object was observed from two location, first Jagger Lane, Emley Moor, next to the TV mast, and second from Penistone Road, Shelley at the junction with Park Drive.

4) At the time of the observations, I was outside on the street.

5) On both occasions I was stationary

6) On both occasions, I saw it with naked eye

7) The object was in the East, South Eastern sky

8) I had direct sight of it

9) The object was clearly beyond the earth's atmosphere out in space

10) It did not move in any direction though it appeared to wobble and distort

11) At the time of the observation the sky was clear of any cloud in the direction of the object

12) On both occasions due to the location from which it was observed, the object appeared to be to the right of the Emley Moor TV mast

13) I have no special knowledge of UFO sightings or of astronomy

14) I was alone at the time of the observations

15) I have received no press enquiries.

As I have indicated, I have no special knowledge of astronomy but the object that I saw appeared to me to be a normal planet appearing low in the sky. I submit this report for your information.

[redacted]

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL

WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

Reference: [redacted] Section 40

MINUTE SHEET

Subject

JFO SIGHTING

Station: [redacted] Date: 7 November 1986

[redacted]

At 0420am on Sunday, 2 November 1986 I was on duty when I received a message from XW control of a possible UFO sighting near to Emley Moor Mast.

I was requested by XW to confirm or deny any sighting. I confirm the sighting and as requested by F.G.O. number 2 10.1.86 paragraph 15 appendix B, I submit my report with points 1 to 17 answered as required.

1. I observed the UFO at 0420am/2.11.86 for approximately 3 minutes duration.

2. I would describe the object as being approx. 150-200feet in length, cylindrical in shape with one white light, at either end, which were not flashing. The object had no particular colour it was not bright and was making no noise.

3. At the time of the observation I was at Cherry Tree Court Old Folks House, Fields Way, Shepley, Huddersfield.

4. I was outdoors.

5. I was stationary.

6. I observed the object with my naked eyes.

7. Observing the object I was looking towards Emley Moor Mast and to the right in a north easterly direction.

8. I could not say how high the UFO was at the time. I estimate approximately 6,000 feet.

9. I estimate approx. 2 - 3 miles away from my position.

10. On first seeing the object it was totally static in the sky, not moving in any direction, but appeared to be hovering. The object then moved slightly to the left after approx. 2 minutes before losing sight.

11. The weather at the time was fine and clear. Visibility was good although there was a small amount of cloud formations in the area.

12. Emley Moor TV Mast was very close to the object.

13. As attached reports from other Officers and seen by Section 40 [redacted] Telephone [redacted] and friend, details not known. Section 40

14. Nil

15. Nine people in total

16. Yes from local newspapers.

17. I have not spoken to Section 40 since the incident and no UFO sighting report taken from her.

Submitted for your information and to be forwarded to Ministry of Defence, The duty Controller, Aeronautical Information Services, RAF West Drayon.

Section 40

WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

Reference: Section 40

MINUTE SHEET

Subject

ALLEGED UFO SIGHTING

Station: [redacted] Date: 7 November 1986

Supt/Chief Insp: Section 40

At 10 pm on Saturday, 1 November 1986, I began a night tour of duty at Slaithwaite Police Station covering the section in a Beat patrol vehicle throughout my tour of duty, I was accompanied by PC Section 40 we were using call sign Section 40

At approximately 0415 hours on Sunday, 2 November 1986, we were patrolling the Marsden area when we heard two other patrol vehicles ED1 and ED4 talking to Force Control via radio. Both cars were referring to a bright object in the sky which appeared to be stationary and near to Emley transmitting mast.

As a result of what was being said, I drove our patrol vehicle onto high ground onto Chain Road between Marsden and Meltham.

At 0438 hours, both PC Section 40 and I were looking eastwards towards the direction of Emley and saw what appeared to be no more than a bright star or planet which was just above a solitary cloud in an otherwise clear sky. I would estimate the object to have been at an elevation of between 20° and 25° and it remained steady. However, when staring at the object it appeared to be changing colour from red to green and back again, which I assumed was caused by the spectrum effect of the atmosphere due to the angle of the object.

However, to further satisfy our curiosity, we decided to change location, and drove to Pole Moor on the other side of the Colne Valley, arriving at 04.49 hours. The object was still visible, its brightness was the same intensity and at the same elevation and direction. Its position in relation to the other stars was also the same. We continued to watch the object for several minutes until the cloud formation near to the object began to break up masking it from our view.

In conclusion, as stated earlier, in my opinion the object was either a dtar or planet and no-one has spoken to me about this incident.

Section 40

Holmfirth UFO mystery

POLICE based at Holmfirth are at the centre of a bizarre UFO mystery.

Several officers reported sighting a huge, long object in the sky near Emley Moor early on Sunday.

The matter has been reported to the Civil Aviation Authority for investigation, but it has been unable to offer any explanation for the sighting.

The object, described as 200ft long with a white light at each end, was spotted shortly after 4am on Sunday by officers in Holmfirth.

Chief Insp Brian Smith said other officers around the area were asked to investigate, and there were three confirmed sightings from high ground at Holme Moss, Pole Moor and Kirkburton.

"I understand it was visible for only a few minutes. It remained static and we believe it was quite close to the Emley Moor mast. I am reluctant to use the term UFO as that does arouse scepticism, but this matter was properly reported and logged by our officers.

E94/1/1

FLYING WING
RAF CHIVENOR

With Compliments

* D/SS, Manchester, will not be in until 22/09.

Section 40

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
21 SEP 1987
FILE 12/2

GR We already have some correspondence on this aspect/series of sightings on 3-5 Aug in Scan Ex * D/SS & SEC(AEW) have been asked to investigate. I will prepare a suitable draft reply. [redacted] 22/9

CENTRAL REGISTRY
- 9 SEP 1987
RAE Chivenor

Section 40 [redacted]

4/9/87

Dear Sir,

I have recieved some disturbing reports from North Devon, Plymouth, and now Exmouth of a massive object that as far as I can determine was seen from these (and other) areas on the night of Monday August 3 1987. I have a newspaper cutting August 14th 1987 where *someone states that this object was in fact two "Vc 10s" engaged in night "tanking" exercises? I can't accept this explanation as the aircraft mentioned do not match the descriptions given by the many witnesses in this particular case.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
2 1 SEP 1987
FILE 12/2

* From R.A.F Chivenor

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec(AS)2
- 9 SEP 1987

(E94)
reply sent
29/9/87

Section 40

Dear Sir [redacted] 12/3 3.9.87

Thank you for your letter dated 16th Jul as you wrote it does not poise a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom but I would say it has individuely confronte me a woman 5 times I would say that is very alarming I would have thought it would have confronted men five for five. I have read sinelar reports of them coming upon people on there own and in some dark lonely places for us not to be able to prove or disprove it. It came in twice in 1982 twice in 1986 the last time was June 12th 1987 five times in all I believe it has just completed a missio to get into an end house in this way. For it to have explored and gathered informatio for its use for the future.

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

When it first came in 1982, I asked to be ~~moved~~ supposed to have bought this house is there a small compensation. It has made me a little ill and shocked.

I enclose another book, I duplicated the book I sent to you because it came into the house so I kept a record of its activities. Could you please write back to say you have received the book or not. I am sorry to have wrote the book up as I have its amateurish. I have tried to gather what there intensions are.

Yours Faithfully

Mrs. Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted] OK.

Section 40 [redacted] — UFO / Alien Spotter Extraordinaire

You asked to speak about this.

Section 40 [redacted] last wrote on 12 June 1987 on the same subject, namely her experiences of aliens. Our reply dated 16 July 1987 included the majority of our general standard paragraphs and as such I feel that there is no need to cover them again. However I have restated our policy on UFOs, just in case she feels like writing again — I wish to deter her!

If you haven't read her notebook, it covers her experiences of aliens since 1982. Apparently she has had a regular alien visits to her house since then!

Section 40 [redacted]

29/9

Section 40

Letter from Section 40

I have now obtained information from DISS & GE(AEW). There were 2 sightings on 3/4/5 August in the West County and reports for these will be sent to Section 40 Section 40 Also asks some more specific questions and after obtaining some advice from GE(AEW) I have passed a draft reply to Section 40. Please note that these sightings correspond to those mentioned by Section 40 and therefore they should ideally be read together.

Section 40

Spk DE/SS re MH 28/9

Section 40 [redacted] Spoke Section 40 [redacted] 29/9

Thanks.

Bf spk with Section 40 [redacted] about this, once you have details from DISS + GE, then, as you mentioned, a draft reply pl.

Section 40 [redacted] 2/9.

E94/0/1

From : Group Captain Section 40 RAF

Royal Air Force
St. Mawgan
Newquay
Cornwall
TR8 4HP

Newquay (0637)
Section 40

SM/1720/2/Stn Cdr

Section 40
Chairman - Research Officer
Plymouth UFO Research Group
Section 40
Plymouth
Devon

2nd September 1987

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your most interesting letter of 29 August. Firstly, I should perhaps explain that RAF St Mawgan operates anti-submarine and maritime surveillance aircraft and, whilst we do have the normal range of air traffic control radars, we do not have an air defence role and nor would our radars be capable of searching the airspace as far east of here as the Bude/Plymouth/Exeter area. Certainly we picked up nothing unusual within our coverage on the night of 4/5 Aug. Out of interes I did contact the Air Defence people at RAF Portreath but they too are primarily concerned with the airspace to the west of the Cornish peninsula and did not track anything significant on that night.

I have taken the liberty of passing your letter to the appropriate department in the Ministry of Defence and would anticipate that you will hear from them in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

From: Sergeant [redacted]

[redacted]

Personal Assistant
to the
Station Commander
Royal Air Force
St. Mawgan
Newquay
Cornwall.
TR8 4HP

Newquay (0637)
872201 Ext 293

SW1720/2/Stn Cdr

Prin [redacted]
Sec(AS)2
Ministry of Defence
Room [redacted]
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

2nd September 1987

Dear [redacted]

UFOs

[redacted]

Further to Group Captain [redacted] telephone conversation with your office yesterday please find enclosed letter from the Plymouth UFO Research Group and our reply; as discussed these letters are forwarded for your further investigation and response.

Yours [illegible]

[redacted]

PUFORG

PLYMOUTH U.F.O. RESEARCH GROUP

FOUNDED 1965

MR. Section 40
MS.
MR.

CHAIRMAN - RESEARCH OFFICER
HON: SECRETARY
HON: TREASURER

reply to:
Section 40

our ref: 8701

your ref:

date: 29-8-87

Dear Sir,

I am compiling a full report on a sighting of two very large Ufos, which were seen, by what I estimate to have been hundreds of people, in Plymouth alone. These Ufos made successive passes over the city between th e hours of 10.30pm and 2.00am on the evening of the 4/5th of August.

These two objects had been seen 30 minutes earlier flying at geeat height, over Exeter in a NE to SW direction. They were tracked on radar by Air Traffic Control a t Exeter and by people in the town.

I know that in the past the authorities have refused to release any information (with some notable exceptions) but this was such a significant event, that I sincerely hope that you will be able to help me with some details, if you would be so kind.

A feature of the incident that I am finding hard to clarify, is the height at which the objects were flying and their size. While flying over Plymouth, the witnesses here (myself included) felt that they were at a h height of something between ¼ and a ½ a mile, and apparently the size of a jumbo jet. However the two delta shaped objects were seen at the same time in the Plymouth direction, from Bude on the north coast, a distance of 40miles away. The Bude sighting was by an RAF wartime navigator, who states that he has never seen anything like them in all his years associated with planes and flying. I shoul d think we can take the word of a wartime RAF man, eh?

So would it be possible for you to give me any information regarding the height, size and speed with which you tracked these objects?

Were any aircraft sent up to investigate these Ufos?

If not, what criteria do you use for deciding whether to investigate unknown aircraft entering our air-space?

And following that what do you suggest I say to all these people, who ask me what is the RAF doing about these things?

Believe me this was avery impressive "display" by a very impressive unknown flying aircraft, of which three sets of photographs were taken that I know of, and as I was writing this I have just had a phone call from further along the Devon coast of a lot of Ufo activity in the last two weeks. Helicopters being seen the following day circling the area, where Ufo was seen. I dont know what you may know, but I have a strong feeling that this Ufo activity will be increasing in the future. This is after an 18 month lull in Ufo activity over the Plymouth area. Any ideas on this?

I assure you that any information would be treated in the strictest confidence, if requested,

yours faithfully

Section 40

cc (AS) 2a distribution :

DSS : Have you any reports for 4/5 August ? If so, please may I have details

cc (MEW) : Have you any comments regarding air ops in this area during 4/5 Aug ? Did we see anything unusual on these days? Apparently RAF St. Mawgan & Portreath diverted.

Section 40

Section 40

Section 40 Telecon will suffice.

Telecon [redacted] (GE) / [redacted] 5.11.87 — No aircraft activity; nothing seen; no aircraft sent up. * (See attachment to letter from [redacted] Esq (DI55))

Section 40

3/3

reply no longer required

PUFORG

PLYMOUTH U.F.O. RESEARCH GROUP

FOUNDED 1965

Section 40 [redacted]

MR. Section 40 [redacted]
MS.
MR.

CHAIRMAN - RESEARCH OFFICER
HON: SECRETARY
HON: TREASURER

reply to:
Section 40 [redacted]
Plymouth
[redacted]

our ref:

your ref:

date:

Section 40 [redacted]

Plymouth

Dear Section 40 [redacted]

Please find enclosed Part 2 of our report on UFO activity on 4/8/87. and trust that it may be of some use..

It was interesting to find out that on the same day there was an incidence of flattened circles of corn near Westbury Wiltshire. Is there any official explanation of how these 'circles' are formed?

As noted in report it may be worth sky watching on the 4th of August this year. So if you see anything, let me have a report!!

Best wishes

Section 40 [redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
21 JUL 1988
FILE

PUFORG

PLYMOUTH U.F.O. RESEARCH GROUP

FOUNDED 1965

MR. Section 40
MS.
MR.

CHAIRMAN - RESEARCH OFFICER
HON: SECRETARY
HON: TREASURER

reply to:
Section 40
Plymouth.

our ref:

your ref:

date:

Dear ,

Please find enclosed,at long last,the second part of the report on Ufo activity in the South West on the evening of the 4th of August 1987.

We apologise about the delay in this second part,but such was the lack of response to the main report theredidnt seem any point in even doing this one!!

Not to worry.The fact remains that two extremely large and brilliantly lit Ufos put on an aerial display over southern Devon and SE Cornwall for a period of at least 4hours on the 4th of August.

We feel that that this was a significant event and may have deeper ramifications concerning Ufos themselves and official knowledge and involvement with them.We feel that it is quite impossible for these huge Ufos to track back and forwards along much the same line,and over the militarily,highly sensitive Devonport and Bull Point areas of Plymouth, over a 4hour period and for the authorities not to know quite a lot about it!

Mayoe some day we will be told more!

As pointed out in this report,for the Ufos to go to all this trouble,they must have had some fairly strong reason for doing so(wanted an invite to the Plymouth Ayre Fayre?),and as there was also incidence of flattened circles in cornfields at Westbury Wiltshire on the same day,it may be worth watching the skies this year on August the 4th.

Quite by chance,when measuring the distance between Plym. and Exmouth,I found that if you extend aline from them across country,you may be surprised to see that the line passes through Stonehenge and if continued ends right on Sizewell on the Norfolk coast.Hmmmmm

The corn circles were found not far from Stonehenge and there may be some connection.

Watch the skies

Best wishes

PUFORG

PLYMOUTH U.F.O. RESEARCH GROUP
SIGHTING REPORT

Date 4-8-87
Time

FILE NO. 8701 Pt. 2.

Location
Devon & Cornwall

We heard from a witness who was particularly well qualified! - Section 40 [redacted] of St Budeaux, who had just let his dog out at 11.40 pm on the 4 Aug 87. [redacted] is very Section 40 interested in aircraft and just previous to letting the dog out had been listening to the air bands, monitoring aircraft between Berry Head and Brest, Berry Head and Wrexham, Lands End and Dublin.

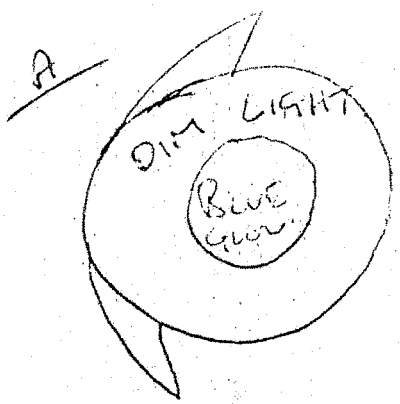
Section 40 [redacted] father was a radio ham and former pilot - Section 40 [redacted] himself has had a lifelong interest and involvement with aircraft. He had also organised the Plymouth Air Fayre

Section 40 [redacted]

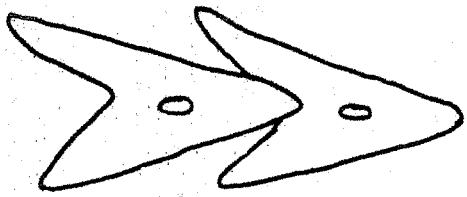
"I looked to the East on Upper Romeo 8 (Southampton-Lands End air-lane) when I saw object 'A', which I estimate was at 60,000 ft in the centre of UR 8, going West at very high speed .... the object was a disc with leading wings. It had a transparent blue glow with a dim white glow over the rest. There was almost a flashing wake as it cut the air, and a slight sound like a wartime V-1 rocket. I don't think this object could have been seen in bright light. Almost overhead the object did a slight swing to the left then a long sweep to the right, over the Tamar and then on to the North and out of sight. All this was in approximately 16 seconds."

Section 40 [redacted] had called his wife but she did not see the object as she had to fetch her spectacles, "Just then my wife noticed Object B, a mass of lights coming from the direction of Looe. I thought these to be VC 10 tankers, nose-to-tail. They did a slight left turn to N behind Saltash, following the river and the same direction as Object A. I ran upstairs and looked through a pair of 8 x 30 binoculars. There were no navigation lights. I saw 2 objects nose-to-tail and felt sure they were too low and slow to be tankers. When I first saw them they were again on UR 8, but going East. I watched the sky for another 40 minutes and saw 3 flashing lights. Each were stationary and flashed around 10 times each. Each was like a bright star and one was in the centre of Ursa Major." [See illustration 1+2]

DRAWING



Illus. 1.



Section 40 "Shape and main light only. I'm sure they were two but locked together. Small lights were many" Taken from witness' sketc

Illus. 2.

Section 40

The first object seen by [redacted] was not reported by any other witnesses. As he said it would have been very difficult to see from a lighted area and the speed of the objects also making it less easy to see than the other lighted objects that were being seen that night.

Further information from Section 40

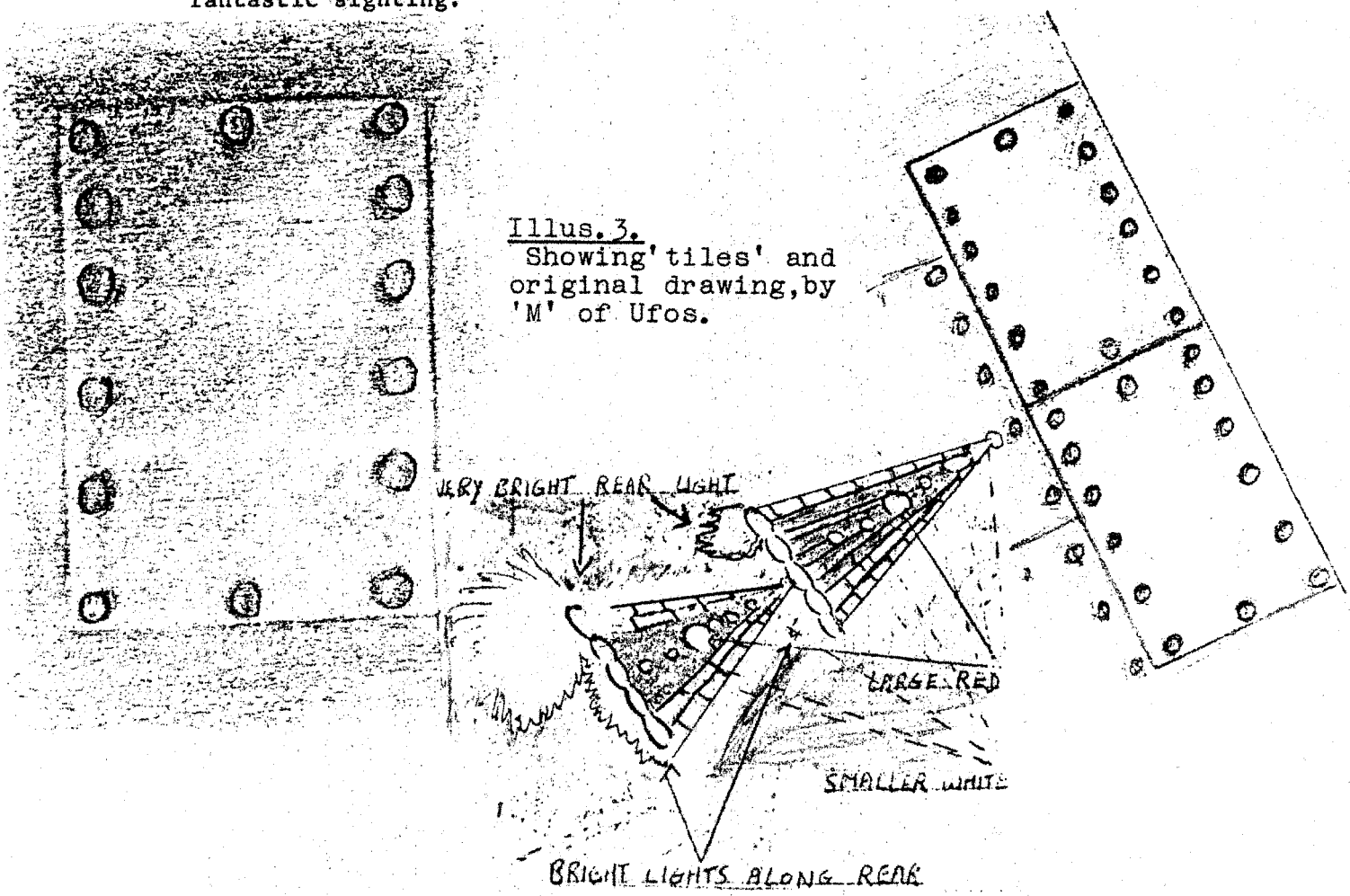
"The wings on "A" looked like aircraft wings with a light playing on them .. "A" must have been the equivalent of 4 jumbo-jets in diameter. It sounds daft, but it must have been some 1000ft. If I drew the lights on "B", it would be guess-work. The shape was not unlike VC 10s, but nothing else adds up to that .. If it was VC 10s, either optics were playing up, or they were flying too low at 6-7000ft (which I think they were) and at a remarkably low cruising speed, and something was wrong! This is all very interesting - I had a strange feeling at the time that I was watching something special. Object 'A' was under control without a doubt. I've flown gliders so I know how aircraft handle. Can't say I've ever flown this fast though, and I'm sure no humans have either!!".

A request for further information regarding the "tiled" appearance of the surface of the main craft, as seen through binoculars by the "M" family, brought further details from them. May I remind readers that Mr M is a Professional Officer with the MOD.

Mrs M:

"The underside of the object ... was just like Lego blocks. The actual casing around the individual lights was similar to grey metal and looking through binoculars it was as if I could even see screws and bolts welded into the Lego blocks. (Illus.3)

We were lucky in as much that it literally passed directly over our heads. Being such a crystal clear night it was a perfect view of this object. I don't know if I mentioned it when I sent in our first reports, but before finally disappearing from our sight, a large red light seemed to pulsate from the centre of the craft and a white, fine shaft of light, shot down to earth from the end of the object. It was similar to a laser beam. My husband and I both noticed it, and he exclaimed sharply 'Did you see that?'. I have drawn in better detail what I saw that night. We all agree that this is exactly right. With the strong binoculars it brought the craft that much nearer and being such a clear night, it was a fantastic sighting.



Illus.3.
Showing 'tiles' and original drawing, by 'M' of Ufos.

As the craft was heading back towards the East, which was the finale of our sighting, we both looked up at the sky directly above us. Quite suddenly what we thought were stars .. not one, not two, but three "stars" became lights, which moved at such a speed that it seemed impossible. They sped one after the other, faster than any aircraft that I have ever seen .. we both exclaimed 'Look at them, what are they?'. We then looked towards where the craft were just turning towards the North, when this very bright light appeared at the back of the craft. We both thought it was as if some kind of very large door had opened to let the smaller lights into the craft .. then a large red light began pulsating on the top of the craft, as it slowly disappeared from our view.

The three lights were just like other stars but then to see three of them speed, and I mean they simply zoomed one after the other, towards the main craft .. it was as if it was waiting for whatever the lights were attached to for re-entry into the main craft."

Mr M:

"The three small lights travelled very fast and with no sound, towards the main vehicle, Figure B shows the vehicle travelling away. At the stern a big white light showed as if an opening had appeared to take these small lights. As the vehicle banked to the left we could see two bright red lights on the top. These were pulsating. The white light in the stern faded, as if the opening was closed. The vehicle then disappeared fast in a Northerly direction.

After the white "lights" were seen to enter the large white light on the UFO, that was the last the M's saw of the UFO's.

One of the main aims of PUFORG is to publicise UFO activity which occurs in Devon and Cornwall. To this end we sent copies of the initial report of this case to various newspapers and public figures as well as other UFO groups.

None of the newspapers we sent reports to acknowledged receiving them, and as far as we know none of them gave the case any coverage.

We received replies from Neil Kinnock (a standard reply - noting points raised), a personal reply from David Owen, no reply from David Steel, and a letter of acknowledgement from Mrs Thatcher's Secretary saying that it was receiving attention!

In October we received a reply from the MOD concerning the letter sent to the RAF Stations in late August, seeking information re the 4th August sighting. The reply from the MOD was very helpful and also included two sighting reports of UFO's seen that night by a member of the armed forces, and a postman.

The first report was from Exeter of a large triangular multi-coloured, very bright object, which was seen by the postman and several other witnesses, at 11.30 pm when they were at St David's Post Office, Exeter.

The object was seen flying in a straight line before turning towards Tiverton. It was reported to the Royal Observer Corp at Exeter.

The second report was by a Corporal in the Royal Marines and lasted just a few seconds. He saw a round, bright object, similar in size to the moon as viewed from earth. It travelled parallel to the car in which the witness was travelling, between Marston Magna and Mudford. The object was moving at such high speed that it was only visible for a moment. The Corporal reported what he had seen to the Police and also Yeovil Air Station.

In the follow up letter acknowledging receipt of our sightings report, Section 40 of the Secretariat (Air Staff) replied that the main concern of the MOD is that it is determined whether UFO's present a threat to the security of the UK, and went on to say "Unless we judge that they do, and that is rarely the case, no attempt is made to investigate or identify the objects. If reports are deemed to warrant further investigation, enquiries are made at Units in the locality of the report, to check if anything had been seen on radar or if they had any knowledge of aircraft operational in the area at the time. Nothing was seen or reported concerning this particular report." Then he went on to say that there was a refuelling exercise taking place in North Devon that evening and that it was possible that that could account for the reports received.

The MOD had considered these sighting and had decided that they did not present threat to "the defence and security of the UK. Nonetheless it is clear from the reports we receive that many strange things have been observed in the sky, although we believe rational explanations could be found for most of them, eg ball lightning, satellite debris, cloud formation, etc."

We were very pleased with his helpful reply and that the MOD had sent us the two reports. We replied thanking them for their assistance, and asked for further information regarding their statement. "Unless we judge that they do present a threat, and this is not normally the case." We then asked if they could give us details of cases that had been judged to be a threat, and what action had been taken. We also pointed out that while we knew that there had been a refuelling exercise, or rather that we had been told there had been, (after being informed there had been no military aircraft in the area), this could not account for the reports we had received, specifically reports that had stated the UFO's had been seen overhead in Plymouth, and later reports that had stated that the pair of objects had been seen over the sea off Exmouth, heading in the direction of Plymouth.

We have received no reply to these questions.

In mid-January 1988 we received a letter from Section 40 also from the Secretariat (Air Staff)2, who was replying to the letter we had sent to the Prime Minister in October.

Section 40 said that most of my letter to the PM had been answered in the letter to me from Section 40 in October. She went on to say that the incident I reported was most likely explained by the aircraft refuelling, and that "local RAF Stations were not necessarily aware of all air activity in their area, as aircraft could have flown over from elsewhere in the UK or indeed from Germany."

You may well ask, as I did, what is the point of a defence system that doesn't know the identity of aircraft in its airspace, and further, does not take any steps to find out. Section 40

Miss [redacted] went on to say that it wasn't true that the MOD refused to release information on UFO's, and were happy to respond to any queries about specific incidents but didn't have the staff or resources to provide "co-ordinated data on a range of incidents, neither could we justify such action given that we do not generally consider that UFO's present a threat to the security and defence of this country."

I replied thanking her for her letter. I pointed out that she was the third person who in an official capacity had stated that the RAF aircraft were responsible for the UFO reps, but that requests for the time, place, duration and flight plan of exercise, so that these could be compared with the reports we had, were ignored.

I also asked if it would be possible to see photographs of the 1983 sightings by Police Sergeant Section 40 of North Yorkshire, also that I understood that the MOD did not have the manpower to co-ordinate data about UFO reports and would it be possible for me to examine the UFO files of the MOD.

My reply was dated 5 Feb 88 and to date have had no reply.

++++ ++++ ++++

Altogether we received another 17 reports that were definitely dated the 4th of August, and involving nearly 50 witnesses.

Eleven of these reports we received from Section 40 Ufo investigator of Exeter. Many thanks, Section 40

++++ ++++ ++++

The following reports show another aspect of the phenomena; that is the "strangeness" of them. The two main witnesses to the following were very impressed that when they went into their front street there was no-one about, and the street "was very quiet, deserted. No birds singing, cars sounding, it was as if we were the only people alive on the earth. We felt that this UFO was putting on a display just for us, that we had been selected to watch. We felt honoured."

Section 40 a successful businessman, was lying in front of the fire watching the TV at 8 pm on the evening of 4 August 87, when he glanced through the french windows and saw what he thought was a hand glider in the sky some way beyond the houses (50 yds away), opposite the back of his house. He commented as much to his wife, [redacted] who replied that hang gliders wouldn't be flying over a town, surely! [redacted] got up and went to the window to get a better view, and thought that he could see balloons above the wing tips of the "hang glider" (see illustration 4). Section 40 Section 40

Section 40 requested that there names remain confidential. They live in Exeter

When he saw the "balloons" at the wing tips, [redacted] said it was just an advertising stunt and opening the French windows went into the back garden with Julie to get a better view, as it was heading in their direction. They didn't attempt to look at the object again until they were in the centre of the lawn and it was now closer and to their left at an angle of 45° to ground, flying with nose slightly down as if about to land. Object now appeared, as illustration .

They both realised that the object was not a hang glider, in fact it was looking extremely odd. It was now near and they were struck by the absence of engine noise and then they became aware of how quiet the whole area had become. The object was travelling very slowly.

"It looked like a Harrier or mini concorde. It was very sleek and streamlined. The whole of the top of the object was camouflaged and had a pleated effect, (see Illustration 5). There were no windows or sign of a cockpit, no sound at all. Everything in the area was quiet as if we were the only living souls. I turned to [redacted] and said 'What the hell is it,

[redacted] was now also aware that we were watching something strange. The silence of the object as it glided past to our left unnerved her. " I was a bit frightened then as I realised that it wasn't anything normal." Speechlessly she just watched as it slowly passed by.

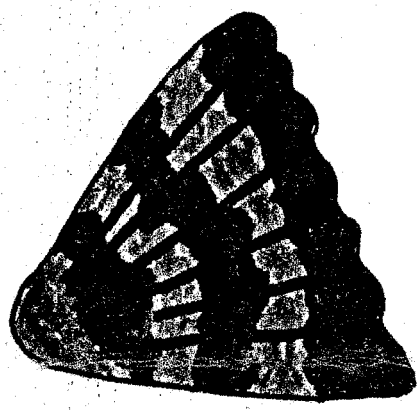


'My first view which I thought was a hang-glider.'

Illus.4. F.s drawings and comments.



My second view after walking to the french windows. I then thought it was an adv. stunt for a local fete



Illus.5. Ufo as seen in back garden. Drawn from witnesses descriptions.

[redacted] meanwhile had realised that he was seeing something very unusual, and before it had gone over the roof of the houses he dashed to the front gate to await its passing overhead, and in order to get a really good look, and, possibly to identify the craft. [redacted] watched as the object went over, then hurried to her front door. She didn't want to be out in the open when the thing reappeared. By now she was very disturbed by what she had witnessed.

Little did they know it, but [redacted] weren't the only ones to have watched the UFO. [redacted] a registered Nurse and ex-RAF wireless operator, also ex-Treasurer of the now defunct Exeter UFO Group, was in his garden at the time (see map).

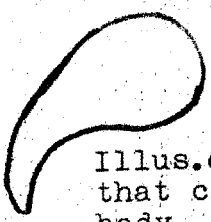
"Something in the sky attracted my attention. I looked up and saw what I thought at first was a tight circular formation of birds. Almost immediately I realised that this was not so. It was an approx circular object (but not a fixed shape) and what made me mistake it for birds were the tightly intertwined silver 'commas' on a dark background. I had mistaken the silver commas for the sky between the birds. The object was travelling in a uniform speed in a perfectly straight line from W.N.W. by W. to E.S.E. by E. There was no sign of method of propulsion, nor was there any sound. What the object was I could not estimate. I suppose I observed it for between one and two minutes, it appeared to be flying at a speed somewhat slower than a light aircraft would fly. It appeared to gain height slightly (though that could have been an illusion), as it disappeared over the roof tops. As the object passed me almost overhead I could not get a side view and therefore my drawing is a view of the underside."

[redacted] further said that the object changed shape while he studied it. It was firstly circular then it altered into a "dinghy shape" seen from below, then it continued and changed back into its original circular shape. He thought the object was very low and got the impression that it was "pulsating" as it changed back to the circular shape.

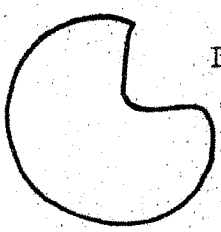
The object was between a golf ball and a tennis ball in size (at arm's length) and was dark brown with the silver 'commas'. His wife, [redacted] also saw the object (see illustration 8). Along [redacted] street, and nearer [redacted] house, a [redacted] and her family were having a meal when they saw what they thought was a group of balloons heading towards [redacted] house, but took little notice

By now [redacted] was at his fron gate. He was disturbed by what he had seen in the back garden and was determined to get a good view of the object, so as to identify it. He wanted it to be an aircraft because "I didn't like to think about it not being one!!." He positioned himself at his front gate so that he would have a clear view of the object when it came over the neighbouring roof top. In a few seconds the craft passed over.

"I was going to look for markings or numbers to see if it was military or civilian. When it appeared, very slowly over the roof tops the craft was covered in a thin mist which hadn't been there in the back garden. I was looking at the tail section, but couldn't see much because of the mist. Then as I stared harder, the mist seemed to clear and that section of the object became visible. It was as if I had to look a long way through the mist to see through it, but as soon as my sight reached the object's body, the mist disappeared completely at that point but remained over the rest of the body. Because of this I was never able to see the complete object, but only the area where I was staring, and then only after my gaze had penetrated the mist. It was like a hologram. When my gaze reached the body, I was surprised to see that it was a dark brown colour, covered with pale cream 'commas' (6) I remember thinking how very beautiful it was. The 'commas' were large at the bottom of the craft, smaller towards the top. They seemed to be in three rows, but not in any set pattern, and covered all of the surface that I could see through the 'mist'. I realised that this wasn't helping me to identify it, so I looked towards the cockpit area. I was very excited by this time and was looking round to tell others about it, but there wasn't a soul about. It was as if we were the only people on earth. There was no bird song, no dogs barking, no traffic. I felt that this was a display just for our benefit. I felt extremely privileged by what I was seeing. Looking at the cockpit area, the first thing I saw when I had penetrated the fog was a glass-like bowl, but not exactly round, which seemed to hang under the wing.(7) My gaze had to travel under the wing, I then saw two more of the glass bowls. My gaze then reached the area where the wing and body met. It seems ridiculous but this area seemed huge and far too big to be able to fit in with the rest of the craft. This area was coloured a flesh pink, which also greatly surprised me, but again felt it was very beautiful. It put me in mind of those multi-coloured Hippy vans you used to get. Then I got the idea that the object was in difficulties, it seemed to be breathing, heaving. I got the idea that there was frantic activity going on inside of it, that there was something seriously wrong and that it was going to crash. My first thought was to go into the house, but then I thought that if that thing crashes it will blow up half of Exeter, so I may as well stay and watch!!"

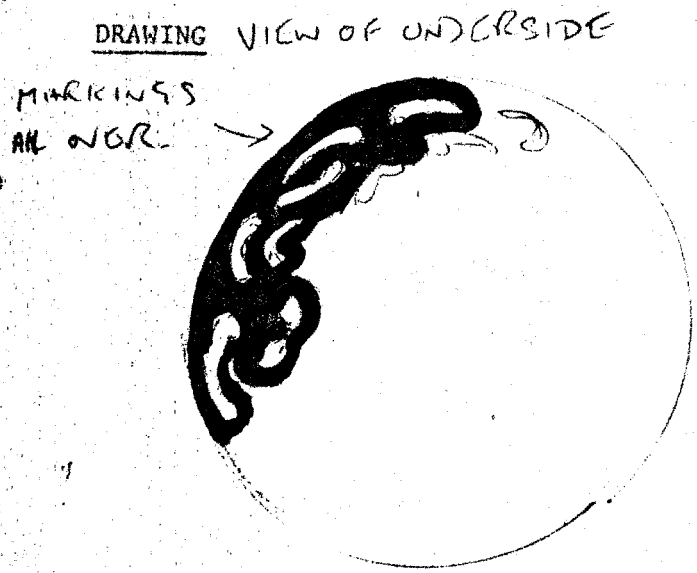


Illus.6. This is the shape that covered the brown body.....they were light cream".



Drawings by [redacted]

Illus.7. One of the glass"bowls" seen under leading edge of Ufo.



Illus.8. [redacted] drawing of Ufo

Seen from the front street the UFO measured about 8" long by 2" wide, and took from 1-3 minutes to cross street view. It was when the object was over the houses across the street that it seemed to be in difficulties Section 40 continues:

"I really felt it was going to crash. It had been slowly getting lower in the sky all the time that we had watched it, and was now at the lowest that it had been. Again I felt that there was tremendous activity going on inside the craft maybe because of the breathing " effect that was visible then, I know it sounds stupid, but it was as if it had found the right gear and it was alright again. You know when you miss the gears in a car and the clutch slips? It was like that, as if they couldn't find the right gear!! but the effects much more so. Then you knew it was alright, and it had disappeared over the houses opposite."

Section 40 [redacted] idea of the overall shape in front street, was of a vague wedge shape, but cannot be sure. The only detail that he can say is of the two isolated areas he saw through the mist. The "towing" section he can't explain.

The area where the wing joined the body, was 'vast', but we have found it quite impossible to get an overall picture of the object as seen by [redacted] from the front street. Section 40

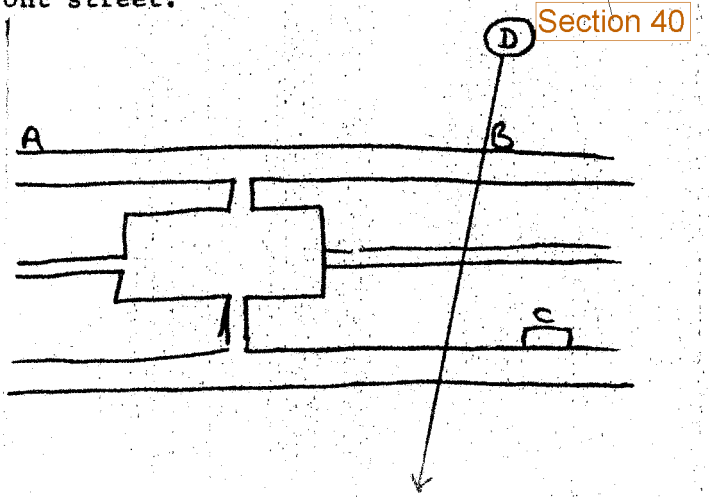
Asked to describe the 'breathing', he said it was like "curtains when the wind blows them, slightly, from behind, swelling then going back."

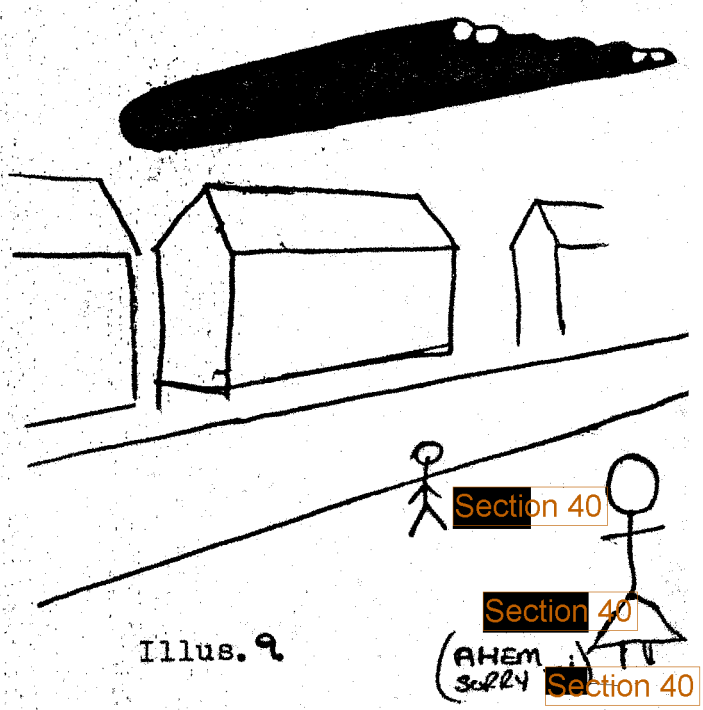
This was a very difficult report, and it was only after much correspondence and vists that we were able to understand what had been seen. Section 40 report was complicated enough, but to complicate matters even further, [redacted] saw something completely different.

[redacted] Section 40 Section 40 Section 40

"I was frightened by what I had seen in the back garden, and shocked. When [redacted] ran to the front gate, I watched the thing fly slowly past me and over my neighbour's house, a couple of doors down. It was very eerie. I went through the house to the front door, seeing [redacted] at the gate. Nothing was going to Section 40 make me go there! I didn't like it at all, and it was so quiet, no-body around. Very eerie. I then saw the object come into view. When I had first seen the object in the back garden, it was coloured light and dark brown in a camouflage pattern, and so I was very surprised when it appeared in the front that it was now a dull black. What was even stranger was that as I looked at it, it seemed to have huge depth. The more I stared into it the deeper I seemed to look. Like looking into a bottomless well. This disturbed me even more. It was very strange, frightening to me. Then when it got over the houses opposite, the thing began to heave. I thought, God, it's breathing - it's going in and out. I was very disturbed and just couldn't imagine what was going to happen next, so I turned and went into the house, I was very frightened. The object was boat-shaped and dull black all over. At the rear and at each side of it were two glass bowls hanging underneath it."

The drawing (Illustration 9) shows [redacted] view of the object as it flew over the front street.





A - Section 40 [redacted] house
B - [redacted] house
C - [redacted] house
D - Path of Ufo(Okehampton to Dawlish)
Distance between A and C is 873ft.

Illus. 9

The sighting, as you can imagine, really affected both [redacted] didn't want to report what he'd seen in case of ridicule, but by chance two days later was at [redacted] house (a customer of his) and just happened to ask [redacted] if any of his neighbours had said they had seen something 2 days before, whereupon [redacted] replied that he didn't know of anyone else, but that he himself had seen something odd. Shortly afterwards they wrote to PUFORG.

[redacted] very helpfully, worked out the approximate size and height of the object, and estimates that the UFO was flying at a height of 700 ft and was roughly 200 ft long. [redacted] also saw the 'breathing' which he described as 'pulsating' every 2-3 seconds giving a breathing effect, but only occurring during the last part of his sighting.

Though the "camouflage" seen in the back garden is not common, there is a case of it in Texas in the early 50s, when a UFO "like 2 turtle shells joined by a rim, and was camouflaged, top and bottom, with a sort of greenish-grey and brown shade. It resembled the olive drab used by the Army, during the last war." Source: "They Knew too much about Flying Saucers" by Gray Barker 1954.

At Dawlish a couple of miles West of Exmouth, 5 witnesses watched the UFOs from the home of [redacted] and a layout engineer, gave us this report:

"At between 10-10.10 pm on the 4th August 1987, a 'V' shaped object was spotted flying from the seaward side of Exmouth. The 'V' shape consisted of 2 separate 'V''s flying close to each other. The sky was clear and stars were visible. At the time of the initial sighting, several aircraft were spotted in the same area, and were identified by navigation lights and engine noise. This sighting lasted for approximately 2-3 minutes, until the objects disappeared towards the West. About 30 minutes later, the objects appeared from the West at a slightly lower elevation. As the objects passed over the mid horizon, the 2 'V''s separated, then rejoined further on, keeping to a fixed flight course. The speed was constant throughout all of the sightings. The object then disappeared over the sea and re-appeared about 20 minutes later and continued Westward. The last sighting was approximately 20 minutes when the object appeared from the West at a lower elevation than before and disappeared over the treeline."

These 2 objects that [redacted] and friends saw, were visible only as 'V' shapes made up of white and red lights (making it very similar to the FSR report). The aircraft seen at the time did not show any interest in the UFOs and possibly were heading for Exeter Airport. These were identifiable by the presence of noise and navigational lights, whereas the UFOs were silent and displayed no flashing lights.

When asked if what he had seen would fit in with aircraft refuelling, [redacted] replied "Definitely not!" The witnesses at this site also watched the UFOs through 12 x 50 binoculars.

The two main Ufos seen over Devon and Cornwall in their aerial display of the 4/8/87, seem to have much in common with a huge Ufo seen over the New York State area and reported in Flying Saucer Review.

The articles told of a "huge" Ufo seen flying low over areas of NY and Conneticut from March'83 to the time the article was written in Nov.'85.

The Ufo had been seen by "thousands" of people and was variously described as "wing shaped....boomerang....'V' shaped " and as "huge....the size of two football fields".

"The Ufo characteristically flew very low .....usually overflying five to ten towns, always displaying brightly glowing lights of various colours

It would be interesting to know if that Ufo is still active in America.

The American Ufo showed an interest in a nuclear establishment, when on July 24th'84 a "huge 'V' shaped Ufo slowly descended to within several hundred feet of the Indian Point nuclear facility".

Maybe there is some similarity here also, as Plymouth is a main base for nuclear warships and is soon to have its own nuclear waste dump.

We have waited for any further help or information from the Ministry of Defence, but now feel we should complete this before it becomes positively antiquated!! Finally, we conclude with a report of a UFO seen on 17th February, this year, by [redacted] and yet another witness in this case, who was a World War II RAF Airman (Observer, flying with [redacted] Squadron). ← (this time indirectly)

"On 17th February, Ash Wednesday, at 6.50 pm, whilst drawing the curtains across ..dows facing West, I saw, low in the sky, what I first took to be a planet. I had been observing, Venus and Jupiter, both visible and very bright in the clear sky. I realised the object was travelling (due East) and thought it might be a KT 135 tanker refuelling a Hercules. Then the mass of lights made me think it might be a large formation of helicopters. I quickly fetched my binoculars and trained them on the object, which was now almost overhead and travelling at great speed. There was little or no noise, but an array of red lights and a white glow above its cuboid shape. The object was golf ball size AAL and [redacted] estimated the object to be flying at a height of approximately 30,000 ft. The object was rectangular, box-shaped with batteries of red and white lights, and surrounded by a very bright glow. He described his feeling whilst watching the UFO as, "incredulity" and that he finds it "difficult to believe the evidence of my own eyes." [redacted] heard of two other people who had seen the UFO.

His sighting was reported in the local 'Tiverton Gazette' and shown below.

UFO sighting baffles 'sceptical' ex-RAF man

(Tiverton) Gazette: Tuesday, February 23, 1988

A FORMER aircraft observer was stunned to see a high-flying, brightly-lit UFO speed over his house at Halberton on Wednesday evening.

Retired headmaster Mr David Vickery, who said he had always been sceptical about UFO sightings, saw a large cuboid object travelling due east.

He estimated it was flying at 1,000 mph at a height of 30,000ft.

Mr Vickery, who lives at Dinhams, Halberton, first spotted the object from his kitchen window at 6.48 pm.

"It was like a bright star twinkling low on the horizon.

"My grandson had been telling me about a bright star he had seen, and at first I wondered if this was it.

"But as I watched it, it started to move. I ran to get my binoculars to take a closer look."

His next thought was it was an aircraft, but as it came closer it was obvious that it was too big.

"My brain started working overtime trying to work out what it was. I wondered it it was two aircraft refuelling, and then I thought it was possibly a formation of aeroplanes," he said.

But as it passed by he could see it was like a rectangular box-shaped object with batteries of red and white lights, surrounded by a very bright aura.

Mr Vickery said in all his years experience of aircraft he had never seen anything like if before.

NAVIGATOR

During the war he was an aircraft observer with the RAF and he has navigated aeroplanes. He is now a member of the Aircrew Association.

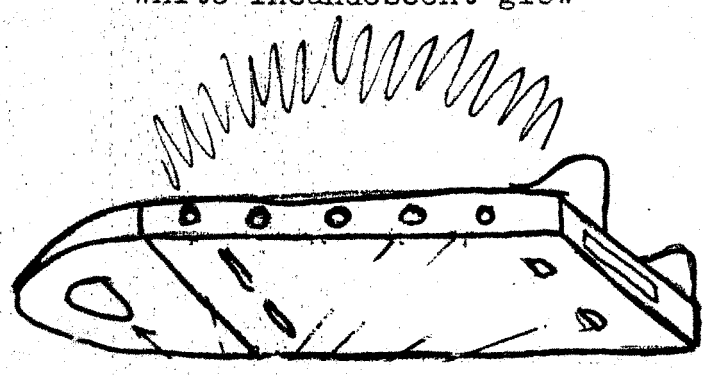
● Local police had no other reports of UFOs in the area. However, several policemen in the West Midlands also saw an unidentified flying object on Wednesday evening.

The UFO they spotted looked very much like the one described by Mr Vickery.



Retired headmaster Mr. David Vickery, of Halberton, shows where he saw a UFO speeding across the sky. He watched it through binoculars and couldn't believe his eyes.

White incandescent glow



Red Lights

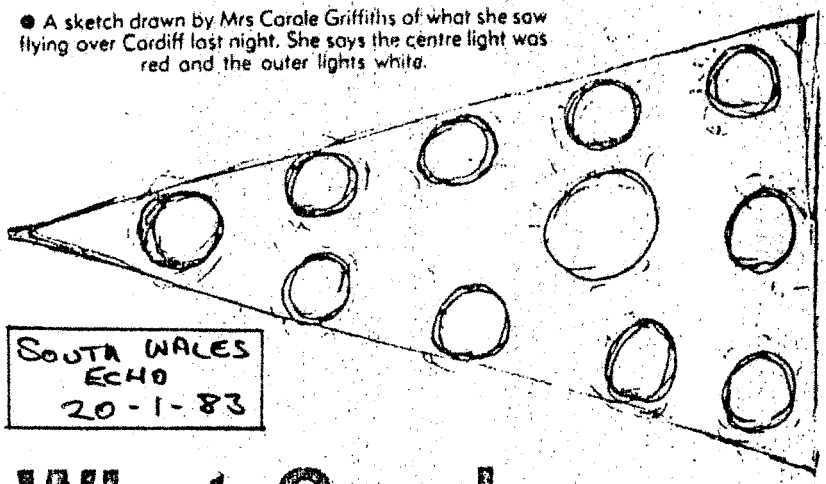
Drawing by [redacted] taken from his sighting report form.

Is this a upside down view of the Ufo [redacted] saw? See Illus.9. [redacted]

We finally conclude again!! We quoted a report from FSR re huge 'V'shaped Ufo being seen in the New York area but the sighting of the 2 triangular Ufos is not unique in England. Below is a report from the South Wales Echo of 20-1-83.

Again aa "giant triangular object"was seen and the similarity between the drawing by the witness, Section 40 and witness drawings in this report(see page 2 for example) is obvious.

● A sketch drawn by Mrs Carole Griffiths of what she saw flying over Cardiff last night. She says the centre light was red and the outer lights white.



SOUTH WALES ECHO 20-1-83

What Carole saw over Cardiff . . .

POLICE PROMISE A SERIOUS PROBE ON GIANT UFO REPORTS

REPORTS of a giant triangular object hovering over South Wales are today being investigated by police.

Descriptions of a sighting in Llandaff, Cardiff, match those made by six people in Swansea, including two detectives.

All say they encounted a giant triangular-shaped object with white lights along the border of the triangle. Some reports say it was larger than a jumbo jet and had a red light in the middle.

Mother of four Mrs Carole Griffiths, of Heol Penlan, Whitchurch, Cardiff, was being driven home from work at 7pm when she saw the object over the River Taff, close to Llandaff Rowing Club.

She said today: "My husband stopped the car we were so amazed. It looked like Concorde taking off but it was stationary in the sky. I normally pooh-pooh things like that, but it had to be a UFO."

Mrs Griffiths's husband, John, who works with her at the Air Call Ltd — a communications company in Cathedral Road — said he saw a similar object above Pentwyn earlier in the evening.



● Mrs Griffiths — pictured at work today.

A passenger in the car, Dr Nribendra Deb, who practises in Caerphilly, said the object seemed fixed in the sky. "I don't know what I was looking at — I have never seen anything like it before," he added.

South Wales police say they received a number of calls reporting UFO's between 6pm and 7pm yesterday.

The first sighting reported four flashing lights in the sky. Within minutes two detectives reported watching a silent object, triangular in shape, drift west over Swansea.

They said it was flying at 1,000 feet, with three lights, two of which were pulsating. It was followed by a smaller similar object. The RAF received two similar reports.

A police spokesman said the reports would be treated seriously. "At present we have not got a clue, but inquiries will be made," he commented.

Notes.

We received reps. from over a wide area, from Honiton in the east to liskeard in the west, a distance of over 60miles.

Reps mainly received from south of a line between the two and around the coast.

Several groups of witnesses in different locations reported sightings in each of the following towns -Exmouth
Liskeard
Looe
Callington
Plymouth

Though Ufos dont seem to return to areas on same dates, because of the obvious importance(from the Ufos side)of this sighting, it may well be worth watching the skies on the 4th of August 1988.



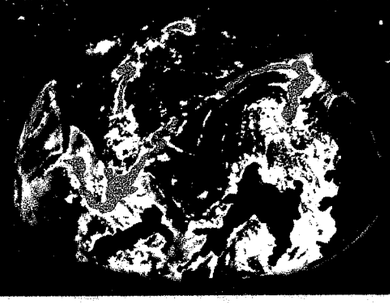


DISCOVER

Above right: 'It is time for the truth to be brought out. . . . Behind the scenes high-ranking Air Force officers are soberly concerned about the UFOs. But through official secrecy and ridicule, many citizens are led to believe the unknown flying objects are nonsense. . . .' Rear Admiral Roscoe Hillenkoetter, Director of the CIA (1947–50), and a member of Majestic 12, in a letter to Congress, 1961. (*CIA*)

Above left: General Hoyt Vandenberg, Director of Central Intelligence (1946-47) and another Majestic 12 member. In 1948, as US Air Force Chief of Staff, he ordered a Top Secret 'Estimate of the Situation' by Air Technical Intelligence Center – which suggested that UFOs were interplanetary – to be destroyed. *(Imperial War Museum)*

The Worldwide UFO Cover-up



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ABOVE TOP SECRET

The Worldwide UFO Cover-up

TIMOTHY GOOD

Foreword by
LORD HILL-NORTON GCB
Chief of Defence Staff 1971-'73

ABOVE TOP SECRET

THE WORLDWIDE UFO COVER-UP

TIMOTHY GOOD

That UFOs – unidentified flying objects – exist has been scorned as vehemently as it has been argued.

That they *do* exist, that many sightings are genuine has always been arguable.

That such alien craft invading our airspace would threaten our deepest-held security systems and religious and scientific beliefs is certain.

That there has been a determined and careful political suppression of information, a conspiracy of fear at the highest international level *because* there is every chance that life on other planets exists – life-forms which take an interest in life on earth – is the main and astonishingly controversial thrust of *Above Top Secret*.

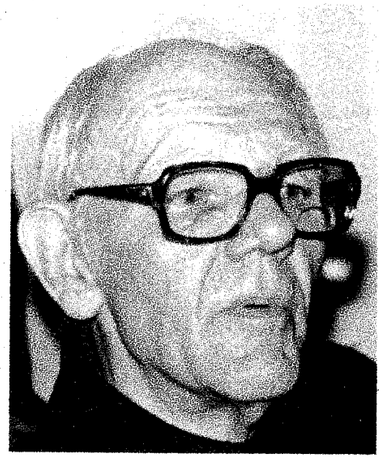
Timothy Good logically, calmly and rigorously examines the evidence. In this sensational book he presents a case which proves beyond reasonable doubt that UFOs are not the figments of crazed imaginations: he has interviewed dozens of convincing witnesses, seen hundreds of declassified governmental papers. More importantly, perhaps, he reveals the extraordinary extent to which politicians in Britain, the USA, and Europe have sought to suppress the facts, to dismiss sightings and yet to retain on file reports and documents. Why, he asks, should such lengths be taken over hoaxes and delusions . . .

Earl Mountbatten of Burma was convinced, President Jimmy Carter wrote of a sighting, Winston Churchill demanded an enquiry. Dozens of responsible airmen have testified. A man out fishing one night in Hampshire was invited into a spacecraft and describes it clearly. Pranksters may be dismissed. This book, crammed as it is with the testimonies of responsible men and women, cannot. Nor can the author's conviction that a monumental international cover-up is taking place.

Above Top Secret is the most astonishing book about extraterrestrials and their potential threat to our security ever written – the more so because of its author's rational, sober and immaculately documented approach. It is riveting.



. . . More than 10,000 sightings have been reported, the majority of which cannot be accounted for by any 'scientific' explanation. . . . I am convinced that these objects do exist and that they are not manufactured by any nation on earth. . . .' Air Chief Marshal Lord Dowding, Commander-in-Chief of RAF Fighter Command during the Battle of Britain, 11 July 1954. (*Imperial War Museum*)



Ralph Noyes, former head of Defence Secretariat 8, a division in the central staffs of the Ministry of Defence which dealt with UFO reports from members of the public. While with DS8, Noyes was shown gun-camera film clips of UFOs taken by RAF pilots. (*Author*)



Above: 'What does all this stuff about flying saucers amount to? What can it mean? What is the truth? Let me have a report at your convenience.' Prime Minister Winston Churchill, in a minute to the Secretary of State for Air, 28 July 1952. (*Popperfoto*)





Above left: Dr. Vannevar Bush, who headed the Research and Development Board after the war, was mentioned by Wilbert Smith in 1950 as being the head of a small group investigating UFOs. That group was Majestic 12, secretly established in 1947. (*Popperfoto*)

Above right: General Nathan Twining, who as Commanding General of Air Materiel Command in 1947 signed a document testifying to the reality of UFOs. General Twining was also a member of Majestic 12. *(Popperfoto)*

PART OF AN ASTONISHING DOCUMENT ACQUIRED BY TIMOTHY GOOD FROM INTELLIGENCE SOURCES IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. THE ABOVE TOP SECRET BRIEFING DOCUMENT WAS PREPARED FOR PRESIDENT EISENHOWER BY THE ULTRA SECRET ORGANISATION KNOWN AS MAJESTIC-12, AND RELATES DIRECTLY TO THE RECOVERY OF AN ALIEN CRAFT WHICH CRASHED IN NEW MEXICO 1947

On 07 July, 1947, a secret operation was begun to assure recovery of the wreckage of this object for scientific study. During the course of this operation, aerial reconnaissance discovered that four small human-like beings had apparently ejected from the craft at some point before it exploded. These had fallen to earth about two miles east of the wreckage site. All four were dead and badly decomposed due to action by predators and exposure to the elements during the approximately one week time period which had elapsed before their discovery. A special scientific team took charge of removing these bodies for study. (See Attachment "C".) The wreckage of the craft was also removed to several different locations. (See Attachment "B".) Civilian and military witnesses in the area were debriefed, and news reporters were given the effective cover story that the object had been a misguided weather research balloon.

****

EYES ONLY

T52-EXEMPT (E)

E93/1

Section 40 2/9

Section 40

reply sent 29/9/87

Section 40

spoke with Section 40 29/9

DEAR SIR

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER ON THE 20 AUGUST 1987 YOU MENTIONED THAT THE MOD ONLY INVESTIGATED SIGHTINGS TOSEE IF THEY PRESENT A THREAT TO THE DEFENCE AND SECURITY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM' WELL I MAY HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU

ON THE 23 DECEMBER 1983 AT 5 45 AM IN THE MORNING A LORRY DRIVER WAS DRIVING ON THE A 59 BETWEEN SKIPTON AND HARROGATE HE WAS APPROACHING THE JUCTION OF SUMMER BRIDGE AND OTLEY NEAR MENWITH HILL'WHEN HE NOTICED WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS A AIRCRAFT ABOUT TO CRASH' IT PAST OVER THE BASE IN A VERY STEEP DECENT AND ALSO THE ROAD ABOUT HALF A MILE IN FRONT OF HIM THEN WENT OUT OF SIGHT BEHIND A FARM HOUSE ON THE RIGHT HAND SIDE OF THE JUCTION.

AS HE DROVE ON PAST THE FARM HOUSE HE DREW LEVEL WITH THE OBJECT WHICH WAS HOVERING JUST ABOVE SOME FIR TREES ON THE RIGHT HAND SIDE OF THE ROAD IT WAS ALSO FLASHING A PALE BLUE LIGHT ON TOP OF IT' HE STOPED THE LORRY AND TURNED THE ENGINE OFF AND ALSO WOUND DOWN THE WINDOW THERE WAS NO NOISE FROMTHE OBJECT OR ANY TREE MOVEMENT UNDERNEATH IT'THERE WAS ALSO PORT HOLES ON IT WITH LIGHT STREAMING OUT OF THEM HE STATED ALSO THAT THE OBJECT WAS CIGAR SHAPE AND ABOUT 50FEET IN LENGTH ABOUT THE SAME LENGTH AS IS LORRY

AFTER OBSERVERING THIS PHENOMENA HE THEN BEGAN TO PANIC SO HE DROVE OFF UP THE ROAD' NERVOUSLY LOOKING OVER IS SHOULDER AFTER REACHING A SAVE DISTANCE HE STOPED GOT OUT OF IS CAB AND LOOKED BACKED DOWN THE ROAD BUT COULD NOT SEE ANYTHING SO HE THEN CARRIED ON WITH IS JOUNEY

IT IS INTERESTING TO POINT OUT Section 40 THAT ALL THIS HAPPENED IN RESTRICTED AIR SPACE SO I THOUGHT THAT YOU AND THE MOD WOULD LIKE TO HEAR ABOUT IT

YOURS FAITHFULLY

Section 40

1. No report received for 23 Dec 83
2. Restricted Airspace - on the edge of Leeds-Bradford Special Rule Zone (SRZ). This limits military flying to at least 2000'. There are no nearby air fields.

Section 40 2/9

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
- 1 SEP 1987
FILE 12/3

Leeds/Bradford Special Rule Zone (SRZ) - 2000' (MSL)



From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

E93
+1

file copy

Section 40

D/Sec(AS)12/3

27 August 1987

Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 10 August which was addressed to RAF Rudloe Manor, Wiltshire. I have been asked to reply on their behalf.

Hopefully by now you should have received my letter dated 12 August. This confirms that we received two reports from individuals in the Harrogate area who spotted something unusual in the sky on 14 July 1987. Copies of the two reports were attached for your information. As I mentioned in this earlier letter, we do not possess any further information on this sighting.

With reference to your question about Rudloe Manor I would like to confirm that there is no department in the Ministry of Defence appointed solely for the purpose of studying reports of Unidentified Flying Objects, and we have no staff who are employed on the subject full time.

Section 40

E92

file copy

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)12/3

24 Aug 87

DI55

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS - CORRESPONDING WITH THE PUBLIC

Reference:
A. Conversation Section 40 [redacted]
of 24 Aug 87

You mentioned at reference A that you occasionally receive correspondence from members of the public asking for information on possible UFO sightings and related topics. In order to avoid duplication of work and to provide a single focal point for the public we agreed that all correspondence on UFOs should be forwarded to us for answer. Would you now please accept this as formal confirmation of this proposal and arrange for all future letters to be sent to Sec(AS). I would also be grateful for any background information that you may have to go with any correspondence that you receive.

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2a

Section 40 [redacted]

From: Flight Lieutenant Section 40 RAF

FE91/5

ROYAL AIR FORCE
West Drayton Middlesex UB7 9AU

Telephone West Drayton Section 40 x [redacted] AIS (MIL)

Section 40
[redacted]

Please reply to The Officer Commanding
Your reference

Our reference
WD/100/2/Ops
Date
25 August 1987

UFO SIGHTING

Thank you for your letter. I must explain that the Aeronautical Information Section (Military) here at the London ATCC is concerned with Air Traffic Control matters and does not take any executive action on receiving a UFO report. As a 24 hour manned section we are a convenient agency for receiving these reports, but after checking that there are no aircraft accident or emergency implications, we do nothing more than pass them on to the appropriate authority during normal working hours.

I am sending your letter to them:

SEC(AS)2
Room Section 40
MOD Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

But you may wish to contact them direct yourself.

Section 40
[redacted]
OC ATS Kl.

Copy - SEC(AS)2.

DIS or SE(AEW) do not possess any details on this sighting.

Section 40
1/8

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
1 SEP 1987
FILE 12/3

E91/3

Section 40
Defence Secretariat,
Air Staff 2A,
Ministry of Defence,
Room Section 40
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London.

Section 40

Tele: Section 40

21 August, 1987.

Dear Section 40

I wonder could you help me with some information? My colleagues and I at the British UFO Research Association have recently been inundated with UFO reports from several different parts of Britain but all on or around the same date.

The areas in question are: London, Derby, Burnley (Lancashire) and Batley in West Yorkshire. London and Derby especially had a great number of UFO reports on Saturday 15th of August on Sunday 16th of August. What I would like to know is does your department have any UFO reports for these or any other areas on or around the above dates. I would also ask you to check to see if there was any military activity in these areas that might account for the unusual observation.

* — Hoax, Please Section 40 of 25/8 report

Any assistance you can give over this matter would be greatly appreciated and a prompt reply would not go amiss either.

I look forward to you reply, untill then I am,

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40
British UFO Research Association.

Sec(AS) dist.
8/55 * — Any comments? A 'phone call with a/f'ee. Section 40 24/8
GE/AEW
Sent. 25/8/87

10 — 1
21 — 2
22 — 1

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec(AS)2
24 AUG 1987
FILE 12/3

(E91/2)

Duty Controller,
Aeronautical Information Services (Military),
RAF West Drayton.

Section 40 [redacted]

9 August,1987.

Tele: Section 40 [redacted]

Dear Sir,

UFO SIGHTING IN WEST YORKSHIRE,2 NOVEMBER,1986.SOURCE:CHIEF INSPECTOR Section 40 [redacted]

WEST YORKSHIRE METROPOLITAN POLICE,HOLMFIRTH SUB-DIVISION.

A report by Chief Inspector Section 40 [redacted] of the West Yorkshire Metropolitan Police, Holmfirth Sub-Division,on a UFO sighting in the Holmfirth area of Huddersfield in West Yorkshire on November 2 1986,was sent to your station for what ever purpose by Chief Inspector [redacted] superiors.

Section 40

Section 40

Two letters from Chief Inspector [redacted] on the 11 of November 1986 and again on the 5 of December 1986,informed that his report on the above event has been sent to your establishment.I also received a letter from the Senior Administrative Officer of the West Yorkshire Police Headquarters in Wakefield confiming that this UFO report was sent to you.This letter was dated 15 December 1986.

I would therefore like to request a copy of the report writen by Chief Inspector [redacted] which was sent to your establishment.This is the second occasion I have respectfully requested a copy of this report,the first time I failed to even have my request ackowledged.

Section 40

Any assistance you can give with regards to obtaining a copy of the above mentioned report would be much appreciated.

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]
British UFO Research Association,
MUFON Representative for England.

E94/1
(1 of 3 pages)

WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

Your Ref:

Our Ref: A21/GSGK

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX 9, WAKEFIELD WF1 3QP
Telephone: Wakefield Section 40 Extension

Dear Sir

U.F.O. SIGHTINGS IN WEST YORKSHIRE

With reference to your letter dated 16 November 1986, reports of U.F.O. sightings are passed to the Ministry of Defence for attention. It is regretted we are unable to undertake a commitment to inform other interested parties.

In the circumstances you may wish to direct your request to the Ministry of Defence whose address is Duty Controller, Aeronautical Information Services (Military), RAF, West Drayton.

Yours Faithfully

[redacted]

Senior Administative Officer

WEST
YORKSHIRE
METROPOLITAN
POLICE

Your Ref:

Our Ref: BMS/AH

HOLMFIRTH SUB-DIVISION
HUDDERSFIELD ROAD, HOLMFIRTH HD7 2TT
Telephone: Holmfirth Section 40 Extension Section 40

5 December 1986

Dear Section 40

I refer to your letter dated 28 November 1986, concerning the matter about which we have previously corresponded.

As you are aware, the report to which I previously referred was sent via my Headquarters to the Ministry of Defence to whom I also sent a copy of your request for the report.

I understand you have already been told that any request for that report should now be directed to the Ministry of Defence and I can but reiterate that advice.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

CHIEF INSPECTOR

Section 40

WEST
YORKSHIRE
METROPOLITAN
POLICE

Your Ref:

Our Ref: BMS/AH

HOLMFIRTH SUB-DIVISION
HUDDERSFIELD ROAD, HOLMFIRTH HD7 2TT
Telephone: Holmfirth Section 40 Extension Section 40

11 November 1986

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 10 November 1986 concerning an unusual observation in the Holmfirth area on 2 November 1986 as reported in the Huddersfield Examiner.

Whilst not in any way doubting the serious nature of your organisation or its intentions, I do not feel that it would be appropriate to give any further details until a full report of this matter has reached the appropriate authority.

I will, however, include a copy of your letter with my report. Should that authority consider it can be of any assistance in your research, I have no doubt they will get in touch with you.

Yours sincerely

Section 40 [redacted]

CHIEF INSPECTOR

[redacted]

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff)2a
Room Section 40

E91
FILE

Section 40

D/Sec(AS)12/3

21 August 1987

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter. I was surprised to receive it so soon after I had replied to your last one, which you sent at the beginning of August. In case you have not received my letter dated 7 August I attach a copy, together with a copy of Lieutenant Colonel Halt's report on the Rendlesham Forest "incident". I regret that this is all the information we have on that sighting and I have no more to add to my last letter.

I hope that this is of help.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff)2, Room Section 40

E90

Section 40

D/Sec(AS)12/3

21 August 1987

Thank you for your letters of 7 August to the Prime Minister and to the Secretary of State for Defence. I have been asked to reply on their behalf.

You may find it helpful if I first explain that whilst we do receive and co-ordinate some information about Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) sightings, the main concern of the Ministry of Defence is to determine whether or not UFOs present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they do, and this is not normally the case, no attempt is made by the Department to investigate or identify the objects which have been seen.

We have no department in the Ministry of Defence which is appointed solely for the purpose of studying reports of UFOs, and we have no staff who are employed on the subject full time. This being so we do not have the resources to undertake any further investigation or general surveys. The sighting reports we receive are referred to the staff in the Department who are responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom, and they examine the reports as part of their normal duties.

Since our interest in UFOs is limited to possible defence implications we have not carried out a study into the scientific significance of these phenomena. I'm sure that you will appreciate that defence funds are fully committed to the continuing security of the UK against, primarily, aggression from the Warsaw Pact countries.

Nonetheless it is clear from the reports that we receive that many strange things have been observed in the sky, although we believe that rational explanations could probably be found for most of them. Possibilities include satellite debris re-entering the earth's atmosphere, ball lightning, unusual cloud formations, meteorological balloons, aircraft lights, aircraft at unusual angles or a host of other things. There is certainly no evidence at present that we are aware of that "alien spacecraft" have landed on the planet.

As I mentioned earlier, the MOD's interest is limited to possible defence implications and as such the information we have is confined to the brief details of the sightings passed on to us by those who witnessed the phenomena. If you have any queries regarding specific incidents our records can be checked and we can let you know if we have a reported sighting and if so, what it contains. We cannot answer more general requests because we do not have the resources to do so, but the files containing UFO reports, like all other MOD files, are subject to the Public Records Act and can therefore be released for public viewing after a period of 30 years. I can assure you that there is no question of a cover-up, or of the Ministry attempting to withhold information on UFOs. I hope that this explains the situation and that you will find this helpful.

Section 40

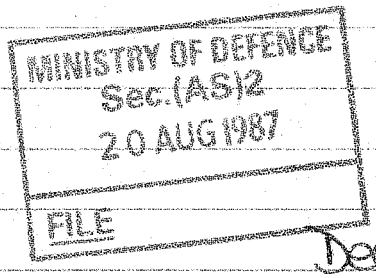
[redacted]

Section 40 20/8/87

E89

Section 40

Section 40



reply sent 21/8/87

Dear Sir

I am writing to ask why there is a cover up of U.F.O facts. Why is the government hiding information that could prove U.F.Os exist? I have been & interested in U.F.O's for the past few years and have heard many U.F.O. stories, facts and information about them and research. However when a story becomes known, the Ministry of Defence deny all knowledge of it. Why is this so?

It is said that in the last few days of December 1980 a U.F.O landed just outside of R.A.F Bentwaters in Suffolk. Many reliable witnesses saw it, traces of radiation were left, indentation were found, animals nearby went wild, car engines stopped. All this happened in the vicinity of an R.A.F. base. Men from the base were sent to the site to investigate, they too saw it. Witnesses say a cine-film, photos and tape recordings were made for the M.O.D. There were radar trackings, and reliable people who saw it such as Base Commander at the time Gordon Williams and his deputy Charles Halt. Yet the Ministry of Defence denies all knowledge of this. Why? They said this had no defence implications so they didnt investigate, but surely a U.F.O landing right outside an R.A.F base would not be ignored! Also, as an explanation they said

that a few airmen had seen Orford Ness light house and over reacted, but surely if the whole base and, trained senior officers in charge of the R.A.F base were mistaken by a lighthouse, and thought it was a UFO, ~~because~~ showing it we all start to worry? If the people who defend us can't tell the difference between a lighthouse and a U.F.O after they have been trained, we had better start to worry.

Could you look into those events and tell me what really did happen in Rendlesham forest, On Dec. 26th 1980 and why the government is holding back information the public should know. After all if aliens did discover this planet it would affect us all. Also, could you tell me, if the mentioned cine-film, photo's and tapes of the incident do exist? Thankyou for your time. Hoping to hear from you soon

Yours Sincerely

Section 40 [redacted]

(age 14)

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

E88

file copy

Section 40

D/Sec(AS)12/3

20 August 1987

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your recent letter which provided details of a sighting made on Sunday 17 May near Colne, Lancs.

As you are already aware we only investigate sightings to see if they present a threat to the defence and security of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they do, and this is not normally the case, no attempt is made by MOD to investigate or identify the objects.

You also asked if we possessed any information on a sighting that you say may have been sent to MOD by a police officer from Holmfirth. I have had a thorough look through our reports file and I am sorry to say that we did not receive a report which corresponds to the details that you gave.

I am sorry I cannot be of more help.

Yrs

Section 40

E87

Section 40

Section 40

19/8

reply sat
20/8/87

Section 40

DEAR Section 40

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER ON THE 26 JUNE 1987 you STAYTED IN YOUR LETTER THAT YOU HAD NOT RECEIVED ANYMORE REPORTS OF A SIGHTING ON THE 16 MAY

WELL SURPRISE SHRPRISE I HAVE RECEIVED ANOTHER REPORT FOR THE NIGHT IN QUESTION IN THE EARLY HOURS OF SUNDAY THE I7 MAY AT 4 AM IN THE MORNING IT CONSIST OF A LADY BEING WOKEN UP EARLY BY HER DOGS BARKING ' SO SHE GOT UP TO INVESTIGATE SHE WENT INTO THE KITCHEN WHERE THE DOGS WERE AND HEARD A DRONING NOISE OUT SIDE THE HOUSE

ON LOOKING OUT OF THE WINDOW SHE SAW A VERY BIG BRIGHT GREEN OBJECT ABOUT 250 YARDS AWAY AT A HEIGHT OF ABOUT SEVENTY FEET SHE WATCHET FOR TEN SECONDS AND IT VANISHED INTO THE DISTANCE ON A NORTH TO SOUTH HEAD ING THIS SIGHTING HAPPENDED IN A SMALL TOWN CALLED (EARBY) BETWEEN (COLNE) AND (SKIPTON) ON THE BORDER OF LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE MAP REFERANCE LONG 90 BY LAT 46

IT IS INTERESTING TO ADD THAT THIS SIGHTING IS ABOUT TWO MILES AWAY FROM WHERE I MYSELF FIRST OBSERVERD A OBJECT WHICH I REPORTED TO YOU ON THE I6 MAY I HAVE ALSO HAD MORE REPORTS OF GREEN COLOURED UFOS ON DIFFERANT MONTHS OF THIS XXSHALKX YEAR I SHALL BE INVESTIGATING THEM IN DUE CORSE AND I SHALL SEND THE REPORTS ON TO YOU

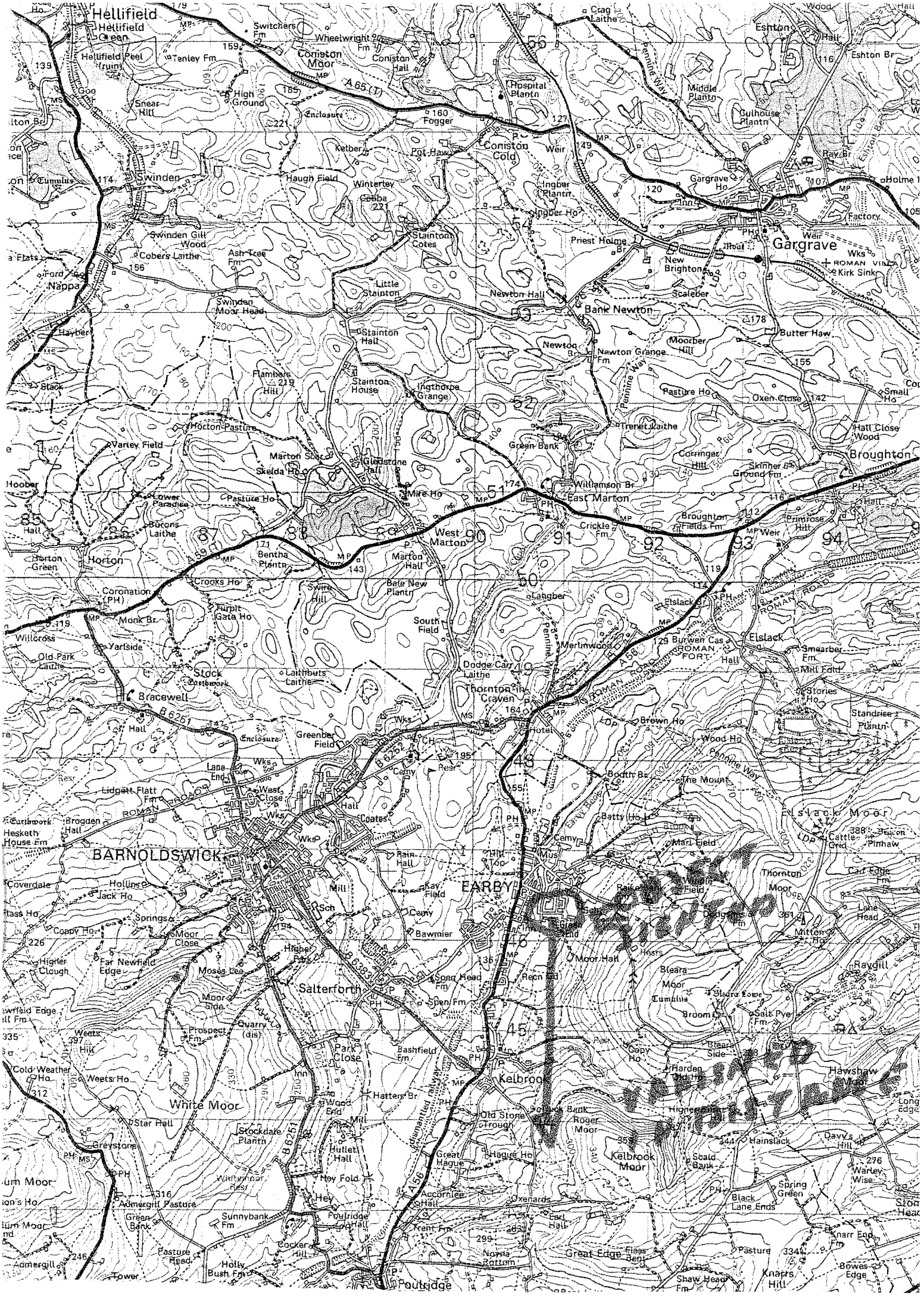
NOW ON NOVEMBER 2 I986 IN THE HOLMFIRTH AREA OF YORKSHIRE AT AROUND 2 AM IN THE MORNING POLICEMEN OF HOLMFIRTH POLICE STATION WERE CALLED TO EMERLY MOOR TELEVISION TRANSMITTER WHERE THEY OBSERVED A LARGE OBJECT ABOUT 200 FEET IN DIAIAMETRER AROUND THE TRANSMITTER I AM LED TO BELIEVE THAT THEE INSPECTOR IN CHARGE SENT A FULL REPORT OF THE INCIDENT DOWN TO THE MINSTRY OF DEFENCE IS IT POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN THIS REPORT FOR MYSELF

YOURS FAITHFULLY

Section 40

Sec (AS) distribution:

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2


Hellifield
Hellifield Peel
Tenley Fm
Coniston Moor
Coniston Hall
Wheelwright Fm
Switchers Fm
A 65 (T)
High Ground
Snear Hill
Fogger
Hospital Plantn
Middle Plantn
Culhouse Plantn
Eshton
Eshton Br
Coniston Cold
Pot Haw Fm
Ketber
Swinden
Haugh Field
Wintertey
Ingber Plantn
Ingber Ho
Gargrave Ho
Gargrave
Priest Holme Br
New Brighton
Swinden Gill Wood
Cobers Laithe
Ash Tree Fm
Stainton Cotes
Nappa
Swinden Moor Head
Little Stainton
Stainton Hall
Newton Hall
Bank Newton
Scaleber
Butter Haw
Moorber Hill
Newton Grange Fm
Stainton House
Ingthorpe Grange
Flambere Hill
Pasture Ho
Oxen Close
Small Ho
Horton Pasture
Varley Field
Marton Scar
Skelda Ho
Gledstone Hall
Green Bank
Trenet Laithe
Hall Close Wood
Broughton
Corringer Hill
Skinner Ground Fm
Williamson Br
East Marton
Mire Ho
Lower Paradise
Pasture Ho
Burons Laithe
West Marton
Crickle Fm
Broughton Fields Fm
Primrose Hill
Horton
Horton Green
Bentha Plantn
Marton Hall
Crooks Ho
Coronation (PH)
Swire Hill
Bale New Plantn
Langber
Furpit Gate Ho
Monk Br
Willcross
Yarlside
Old Park Laithe
Stock
Earthwork
Laithbutts Laithe
Dodge Carr Laithe
Merlinwood
Elslack
Elslack Br
Roman Road
Roman Fort
Burwen Cas
Smaarber Fm
Mill Fold
Stories Ho
Standrise Plantn
Bracewell
B 6251
Greenber Field
Thornton in Craven
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Wood Ho
Pennine Way
Booth Br
The Mount
Lidgett Flatt Fm
Lane End
West Close
Brogden Hall
Hesketh House Fm
Coates
Batty Ho
Slack Moor
Cattle Grid
Beacon Pinhaw
Marl Field
BARNOLDSWICK
Rain Hall
Hill Top
EARBY
Thornton Moor
Cut Edge Fm
Coverdale
Hollins
Jack Ho
Springs
Kay Field
Bawmier
Spen Head Fm
Spen Fm
Moor Hall
Mitton Hall
Lane Head
Copp Ho
Moor Close
Higher Clough
Far Newfield Edge
Higher Park
Moses Lee
Salterforth
Moor Side
Bleara Moor
Bleara Lowe
Cumulus
Broom
Salt Pye Fm
Raygill
Prospect Fm
Quarry (dis)
Weets Hill
Park Close
Bashfield Fm
Cold Weather Ho
Weets Ho
Kelbrook
Harden Old Hall
Hawshaw Moor
White Moor
Star Hall
Wood End
Hatters Br
Old Stone Trough
Roger Moor
Higher Edge
Greystone
Stockdale Plantn
Hutlett Hall
Great Hague
Hague Ho
Kelbrook Moor
Scald Bank
Hainstack
Davy's Hill
Whitemoor Rest
Hey Fold
Hey
Accrington Hall
Oxenards
Black Lane Ends
Spring Green
Warley Wise
Admergill Pasture
Sunnybank Fm
Poultridge Hall
Trent Fm
Earl Hall
Knarr End Fm
Pasture Head
Holly Bush Fm
Cocker Hill
Norma Bottom
Great Edge
Flass Dent
Pasture
Knarrs Hill
Bowes Edge
Shaw Head Fm
Poultridge

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

E86

hile copy

Section 40

D/Sec(AS)12/3

8 August 1987

Dear ...

Thank you for your letter dated 9 August which asked for any information that we might have on possible Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) reported during October 1986.

I can confirm that we received 17 reports during that particular month but I regret that release of this material en bloc is not possible as all MOD files are subject to the Public Records Act. Under this Act official files generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. However, we are able to answer any specific queries you may have about particular incidents which have occurred recently and can let you know whether we have a report on the incident and if so what it contains.

You also asked if we possessed any information on a sighting that you say was reported by Chief Inspector Section 40 of Holmforth Police on 2 November 1986. I have had a thorough look through our reports file and I am sorry to say that we did not receive a report which corresponds to the details that you gave. As you mentioned it was reported to the Ministry of Defence, we might be able to help you further if you can determine where and when Chief Inspector Section 40 reported it.

I hope that this proves useful.

Section 40

Section 40 [redacted] 18/3

E85

Please see attached draft for your approval. Section 40 has written several times before (see E39/1 ; E40 ; E46/3/1 ; and E48/1) back in late 1985/early 1986. Unfortunately, it appears that either we didn't reply to these or we didn't keep a copy of our answers. However, Section 40 doesn't mention this so it would be best to let sleeping dogs lie.

Section 40 [redacted] 18/3

Section 40

Thanks. Before sending reply, pse check that DISS haven't the report. G 18/3.

Please [redacted] 18/3 — They haven't got a report of it either. [redacted] 18/03

Section 40

Section 40

Section 40

Section 40

Ministry of Defence,
Defence Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a,
Room Section 40
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London SW1A 2HB.

reply sent 19/8/87

9 August,1987.

Tele: Section 40

Dear Sir,

Please could you assist me with UFO sightings reported to you department on the following dates:

Does your department have any UFO reports for the month of October 1986,if so would it be possible to obtain copies of such reports.

Does your department have a copy of the report sent by Chief Inspector Section 40 of the Holmfirth Police regarding the observation of a UFO on the 2nd of November 1986, if so would it be possible to obtain a copy of this report.I know that Chief Inspector [redacted] sent a full report to the MOD as he informed of such in a letter to me dated 11 November 1986 and again on the 5 December 1986.

Section 40

Any information you can provide will be of a great help and a prompt reply would be very much appreciated.

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40

MUFON Representative for England.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
13 AUG 1987
FILE 12/3

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff)2a
Room Section 40

F84

file copy

Section 40

D/Sec(AS)12/3

17 August 1987

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 13 June in which you asked for information on the "Churchill Documents". We have now consulted the appropriate MOD records offices and I regret to say that we are unaware of the release of any so named paper which deals with the subject of UFOs. If you are able to provide us with more information on these documents we might then be in a position to assist you further.

Yrs

Section 40

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff)2b, Room Section 40

E83

file copy

Section 40

D/Sec(AS)12/3

17 August 1987

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 10 July which has been forwarded to me for attention.

You asked for any information that the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence might possess on sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs). It might help if I first explain that whilst we do receive and co-ordinate some information about UFO sightings, the main concern of the Ministry of Defence is to determine whether or not UFOs, as reported to us, present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom. Unless there are any defence implications we do not attempt to identify sightings nor can we inform observers of the probable identity of the object seen. Information that we have is therefore limited to the brief details of the sightings passed on to us by those who witnessed the phenomena.

As far as the release of this material en bloc is concerned all MOD files are subject to the Public Records Act. Under this Act official files generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. However, we are able to answer any specific queries you may have about particular incidents which have occurred recently and can let you know whether we have reports on the incident and if so what it contains.

Nevertheless please find attached the addresses of five UK organisations which are involved in the study and reporting of UFO sightings and I hope that they can give you the information you are looking for.

I hope you will find this helpful.

Yours

Section 40

Bufora Journal
Section 40 [redacted]

Flying Saucer Review
FSR Publications Ltd
Section 40 [redacted]

Ad Astra
Section 40 [redacted]

British UFO Research Association
Section 40 [redacted]

Project Orion
Section 40 [redacted]

Yorkshire UFO Society
Section 40 [redacted]

[redacted] 19/8

Section 40

(E52)

Please see the attached draft reply to Section 40 who wrote to the PM and sofs. The letters are identical for our purposes, so I have written one letter answering both.

Section 40

17/8

Section 40

Draft reply to Section 40 two letters attached.

He has not written to us before.

Section 40

19/8.

E81

Section 40 [redacted] 17/8

EC

17/8 Head of Sec (AS)

Draft to me by 28 Aug pl. CP 17/8 Man see to draft reply pls.

The attached letter which the Prime Minister has received has been acknowledged by 10 Downing Street and has been forwarded to this Department for official action.

a. No 10 have passed it to us for action as we see fit and you are asked to consider whether there is anything which can usefully be said to the correspondent and to action accordingly.

or

b. No 10 have asked that a full reply be sent and you should know that the Prime Minister attaches importance to such replies being sent expeditiously.

2. Unless specifically asked to do so, there is no need for you to copy your replies to this office.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
14 AUG 1987
FILE 12/3

Section 40 [redacted]

for APS/Secretary of State

14th August 1987

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

7th August, 1987

To: The House of Commons
London SE1

For the attn.of The Prime Minister
Rt.Hon.Margaret Thatcher

Dear Madam,

Re: Freedom of Information

Congratulations on your success in the general election.

I am a loyal British citizen and I understand the need for secrecy in defence matters. However, I do not agree to the use of the 'Official Secrets Act' as a means of preventing reports of Unidentified Flying Objects from reaching the public. It is well known amongst the news media that 'D-Notices' are sometimes issued to veto publication of specific U.F.O. incidents. Only certain departments in the Ministry of Defence keep records on U.F.Os, the knowledge and details of which are even kept from the military leaders, as the attached photostat from the 'Today' newspaper gives testimony.

Of all the authentic and reliable reports that I have read over the years (involving many honest and sincere people, and including those reports of landed craft and contact with extra terrestrials) I cannot recall ever reading of a single intentionally harmful action that they have carried out. The pilots and crews of these vehicles appear to be of a spiritually much higher level than is commonly experienced on this planet.

The mere knowledge of extra terrestrial craft infringing on our air space should not, by itself, be considered a threat to national security. It may be an embarrassment, but at least this is shared with all the other countries in the world. Several countries, including France, already admit to the existence of U.F.Os., and now in the U.S.A. with their recent 'Freedom of Information' Act, the public now have access to U.F.O. case files. The F.B.I., C.I.A., and the Atomic Energy Commission now openly admit to having studied U.F.Os. since 1947.

We live in a democracy. The public have a natural right to know the truth, yet the truth is being kept from them under a cloak of secrecy, including unworthy ridicule of reports and witnesses.

/continued.....

: Para 2-3

At some time in it's history when the Ministry of Defence decided to take U.F.O. reports seriously, autocratic individuals within it must have decided on a policy of silence which has continued to this day. Many of the recorded happenings are inexplicable, but I believe the public are mature enough to be told the truth provided that the details are released in a controlled way, and newspapers constrained not to sensationalise. Alternatively, if the inevitable happens (since we have no control over U.F.O. activities) and there is a major U.F.O. incident, and as a result people suffer great emotional distress on a massive scale, then questions will be asked, one of which might be :- "Why has the public been left so unprepared by those elected to positions of trust?"

I realise that to openly admit to the existence of extra terrestrial craft may be politically undesirable, and will require courage, but this acknowledgment I feel is necessary in the public's long term interest.

U.F.Os are not going to go away.

I have written this letter therefore, as an appeal, and respectfully submit that by way of your influence the Intelligence Services might be persuaded to release some of their U.F.O. case studies for public scrutiny.

I hope you will weigh the contents of this letter fairly and not reject it out of hand.

Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

TODAY, TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 1987

NEWS IN BRIEF

Admiral warns of UFO threat

FLYING saucers could be for real, says former head of the Defence Staff Admiral Lord Hill-Norton.

But official reports on UFOs are deliberately being kept from the military top brass, he claims.

"There is a cover-up," he said yesterday. "There have been tens of thousands of reported sightings all over the world by very reputable people, including military pilots and personnel.

"It is fashionable to rubbish people who talk or write on the subject, but for myself I don't care.

"I am not a nutter. But I find it impossible to believe that all these people are lying."

While he was Britain's top military planner between 1971 and 1973, reports on flying saucers were collected by the Ministry of Defence without his knowing, Lord Hill-Norton said.

Yet it was clear from eye witnesses that UFOs could outperform any aircraft available to the RAF or the US Airforce.

N-day for heart man

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

E79

Section 40

D/Sec(AS)12/3

4 August 1987

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 17 July which requested any information that we might have on the possible UFO sighting in the vicinity of RAF St Mawgan in February 1985. Your previous letters of August and September 1985 refer.

I regret that, further to our letter of 12 December 1985, there is still little help I can give you in your research into this alleged incident. As we mentioned in our reply to you, we received no reports of unusual activity in the St Mawgan/Newquay area in February 1985, and certainly no reports from RAF St Mawgan. This does not of course mean that no-one at St Mawgan saw anything - rather that they did not for some reason, see any need to report. Given the passage of time I feel there is nothing we are likely to be able to add to the information you already have. Which has since you raised the matter in 1985 been considered by the MOD branch responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom and they are satisfied that there was no threat to the security of the UK and thus there is no defence interest in this incident.

You may find it helpful if I explain that whilst we do receive and co-ordinate some information about UFO sightings, the main concern of the Ministry of Defence is to determine whether or not Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO)s present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they do, and this is not normally the case, no attempt is made by MOD to investigate or identify the objects. Information that we have is therefore limited to the brief details of the sightings passed on to us by those who witnessed them or from researchers such as yourself.

I hope that this proves useful.

Yours

Section 40

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

(E 78/5)

file copy

Section 40
665 Sqn NI Regiment
Army Air Corps
BFPO 808

D/Sec(AS)12/3

13 August 1987

Dear ____

Thank you for your report on a possible UFO sighting in Northern Ireland on 5 August 1987.

You may find it helpful if I explain that whilst we do receive and co-ordinate some information about UFO sightings, the main concern of the Ministry of Defence is to determine whether or not Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they do, and this is not normally the case, no attempt is made by MOD to investigate or identify the objects. In this case the department responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom has examined the report and they are satisfied that the sighting is of no defence significance.

I hope that this is of help.

Yrs

Section 40

Section 40 [redacted] 12/8.

FIC 12/3

IE 13/4

UFO LETTER FROM Section 40 [redacted]

We spoke about the attached letter re 'Churchill Docs', and you asked to be kept informed of progress of our research.

The only Churchill Papers we have managed to obtain any knowledge of, are the personal papers given to Churchill College by the Churchill family.

All we can do now is ask Section 40 [redacted] for any more info - CW is about to send.

Section 40 [redacted] 13/8.

OK I am content.

NOTE:

[redacted] 3/8

Section 40

Spoke Air Cdre Probert AMB (RAF) on 20/07 ref. "Churchill documents"

1. I explained that we had received a letter from Section 40 asking for further information on the "Churchill documents."

2. Air Cdre [redacted] said that the Churchill documents to which Section 40 refers could be the Churchill Papers which are held in Churchill College, Cambridge. These are currently being worked on by Section 40 Churchill's biographer. A/C [redacted] was unaware of any document (s) which relate specifically to UFOs.

3. At this stage it might be a good idea to write back to Section 40 and relay what we have found out so far. We could ask him to provide further information so that we have something positive to go on. Do you agree?

4. NOTE: PRO were also unaware of what Section 40 referred to, though they too felt that it could be the documents in Cambridge.

Section 40
20/8

P.S.

5. I regret I didn't have time to draft a reply before I went on leave.

Section 40
[redacted] 5/8

Thank you for yr research so far.
We spoke about this - pse try to find out a bit more from AMB - ie which Dept controls the docs + can we find out from them if the papers mention UFOs.
Obviously we don't want to spend too much time on this - so if AMB don't know any more, and DPO (RAF) can't help, I think a fairly short reply to [redacted] Section 40 asking for more info on the docs pl.

Section 40
3/8

Section 40
Please see approved draft.

DPO (RAF) - No info on "MJ-12" or the "Churchill documents." Recon of 5/8 refers.

AMB (RAF) - Air Cdr [redacted] mentioned that the "Churchill documents" had been donated from the Churchill family - they were personal papers from the war and were given to Churchill College.

Section 40 Section 40 is the only individual allowed to see the papers at present. [redacted] 5/8

Section 40

file

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)12/3

7 Jul 87

AHB(RAF)

CHURCHILL DOCUMENTS

References:
A. Letter from Section 40 Esq dated 13 Jun 87
B. Telecon Section 40 of 16 Jul 87

1. You will recall that we spoke at Reference B about the request from one of our "regular" ufologists for copies of the "Churchill Documents" which he maintained had just been released. I attach a copy of his letter for your information.

2. You mentioned that you had heard of these documents but you were not aware that they had been released generally to the public. As you suggested I will be ringing Air Commodore Section 40 on Monday 20 July for further details.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a

Section 40

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted] has written several times before : File 12/3 part A ε 16 ; 17 ; 24/3 ; 34 ; 4

He has been given the "standard" letter. I can find no reference to the "Churchill documents" from the files and my letter has been based on this.

Section 40 [redacted] 21/07

Section 40 [redacted] 15/7

Thank you. Before we go back saying that we (ie MOD) is unaware of existence of Churchill Docs, pse check with AHB(RAF) – p. 9-29 in Directory – and then, if necessary, with PRO/DPR. Pse let me know how you get on.

LN Section 40 [redacted] – AHB/RAF
NB [redacted] – DPO (RAF)

Section 40 [redacted] 15/7 x 6710

draft to me by 25 Aug pl.

Section 40 4/08

E1378 (E78/3)

draft reply pse!

Head of Sec(AS)

/ I attach a letter which the Secretary of State has received from a member of the public, and which has been acknowledged by this office.

2. I should be grateful if you would arrange for the appropriate action to be taken, including a reply as necessary. Since the Secretary of State attaches importance to such letters addressed to him being answered promptly, any reply should be sent within two weeks of the date of this minute. If, exceptionally, this should prove impossible an interim reply should be sent within the same timescale.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
12 AUG 1987
FILE 12/3

Section 40

for APS/Secretary of State

12th August 1987

Section 40

Official Reg. (E 78/2)

Section 40 [redacted]

7th August, 1987

To: Section 40 [redacted] Gargunnock, Stirlingshire.

For the attn.of:- Secretary for Defence, Rt.Hon.George Younger

Dear Sir,

Re: Freedom of Information

I am a loyal British citizen and I understand the need for secrecy in defence matters. However, I do not agree to the use of the 'Official Secrets Act' as a means of preventing reports of Unidentified Flying Objects from reaching the public. It is well known amongst the news media that 'D-Notices' are sometimes issued to veto publication of specific U.F..O. incidents. Only certain departments in the Ministry of Defence keep records on U.F.Os, the knowledge and details of which are even kept from the military leaders, as the attached photostat from the 'Today' newspaper gives testimony.

Of all the authentic and reliable reports that I have read over the years (involving many honest and sincere people, and including those reports of landed craft and contact with extra terrestrials) I cannot recall ever reading of a single internationally harmful action that they have carried out. The pilots and crews of these vehicles appear to be of a spiritually much higher level than is commonly experienced on this planet.

The mere knowledge of extra terrestrial craft infringing on our air space should not, by itself, be considered a threat to national security. It may be an embarrassment, but at least this is shared with all the other countries in the world. Several countries, including France, already admit to the existence of U.F.Os., and now in the U.S.A. with their recent 'Freedom of Information' Act, the public now have access to U.F.O. case files. The F.B.I., C.I.A., and the Atomic Energy Commission now openly admit to having studied U.F.Os. since 1947.

We live in a democracy. The public have a natural right to know the truth, yet the truth is being kept from them under a cloak of secrecy, including unworthy ridicule of reports and witnesses.

/continued.....

At some time in it's history when the Ministry of Defence decided to take U.F.O. reports seriously, autocratic individuals within it must have decided on a policy of silence which has continued to this day. Many of the recorded happenings are inexplicable, but I believe the public are mature enough to be told the truth provided that the details are released in a controlled way, and newspapers constrained not to sensationalise. Alternatively, if the inevitable happens (since we have no control over U.F.O. activities) and there is a major U.F.O. incident, and as a result people suffer great emotional distress on a massive scale, then questions will be asked, one of which might be:- "Why has the public been left so unprepared by those elected to positions of trust?"

I realise that to openly admit to the existence of extra terrestrial craft may be politically undesirable, and will require courage, but this acknowledgment I feel is necessary in the public's long term interest.

U.F.Os are not going to go away.

I have written this letter therefore as an appeal to urge you, on the public's behalf, to pressure the intelligence services to release their U.F.O. case studies for public scrutiny.

I hope you will weigh the contents of this letter fairly and not reject it out of hand.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

TODAY, TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 1987

NEWS IN BRIEF

Admiral warns of UFO threat

FLYING saucers could be for real, says former head of the Defence Staff Admiral Lord Hill-Norton.

But official reports on UFOs are deliberately being kept from the military top brass, he claims.

"There is a cover-up," he said yesterday. "There have been tens of thousands of reported sightings all over the world by very reputable people, including military pilots and personnel.

"It is fashionable to rubbish people who talk or write on the subject, but for myself I don't care.

"I am not a nutter. But I find it impossible to believe that all these people are lying."

While he was Britain's top military planner between 1971 and 1973, reports on flying saucers were collected by the Ministry of Defence without his knowing, Lord Hill-Norton said.

Yet it was clear from eye witnesses that UFOs could outperform any aircraft available to the RAF or the US Airforce.

D-day for heart man

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

E781

file copy

Section 40

D/Sec(AS)12/3

12 August 1987

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 25 July which was addressed to RAF Rudloe Manor, Wiltshire. I am taking this opportunity to reply on their behalf.

I have checked through our records and I can confirm that we received two reports from individuals in the Harrogate area who spotted something unusual in the sky on 14 July 1987. I attach copies of these reports for your information although for reasons of confidentiality I have removed the names and addresses of the informants.

As you are already aware, MOD does not attempt to investigate or identify the objects unless they are thought to present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom. As is normally the case, no defence implications were noted and I would like to say that we do not possess any further information on this sighting.

I hope that this proves useful.

Yours

Section 40

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

file copy

Section 40

D/Sec(AS)12/3

12 August 1987

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your recent letters to the Ministry of Defence which have been forwarded to me for attention. Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying to you.

You might find it helpful if I explain that whilst we do receive and co-ordinate some information about UFO sightings, the main concern of the Ministry of Defence is to determine whether or not UFOs, as reported to us, present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they do, and this is not normally the case, no attempt is made by MOD to investigate or identify the objects. I'm sure you will appreciate that defence funds are fully committed towards our continuing security against, primarily, aggression from the Warsaw Pact countries. This being so we cannot justify the use of defence funds on purely scientific investigations, unless a clear threat to the security of the UK had been identified. As such we have no information on the sighting from the jumbo jet flying from Heathrow to Bangkok.

There is no organisation in the Ministry of Defence appointed solely for the purpose of studying reports of UFO sightings and we have no staff who are employed on the subject full time. The reports we receive are referred to the staff in the Department who are responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom, and they examine the reports as part of their normal duties.

Nonetheless it is clear from the reports that we receive that many strange things have been observed in the sky, although we believe that rational explanations could probably be found for most of them. The objects may be satellite debris re-entering the earth's atmosphere, ball lightning, unusual cloud formations, meteorological balloons, aircraft or a host of other things.

As far as the release of our reports en bloc is concerned all MOD files are subject to the Public Records Act. Under this act official files generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. However we are quite happy to answer any questions from the information available to us about specific incidents, although we do not have the resources to undertake any further investigations or general surveys.

Taking up the points in your letter of 17 May concerning the Sunday Mirror article I can assure you that there is no question of attempting to cover up any incident, nor are we trying in any way to obscure the truth from the general public.

I hope you will find this helpful. I also enclose your two stamped addressed envelopes.

YS

[redacted] Section 40

With the Compliments

of

Officer Commanding

HEADQUARTERS PROVOST AND SECURITY SERVICES
(United Kingdom)
FLYING COMPLAINTS & CUSTOMS LIAISON FLIGHT

Royal Air Force
Rudloe Manor
Hawthorn
Wiltshire
SN13 0PQ

Telephone Hawthorn Section 40

FROM: THE DIRECTOR OF INVESTIGATIONS YUFOS/QUEST

Section 40

TO: Section 40 Flight Lieutenant for Officer Commanding

BASE: Royal Air Force Rudloe Manor

Tel. Section 40

Your Ref. RM/9/Air

10th August 1987

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 31st July 1987.

Having managed to obtain further details on the 'UFO' report forwarded by a witness called Section 40

I would be interested to cross reference details he forwarded to your base. Would it therefore be possible to request [under MoD regulations search & request procedures] a copy of the report from RAF Rudloe Manor?

Hitherto the non-availability of that document, could you please advise as to which 'appropriate section' has the report.

Thank you again for any information which may be available.

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40

N.B. Could you also comment on the claims of author Timothy Good ["ABOVE TOP SECRET - The World-wide UFO Cover Up" by Sidgwick & Jackson] that RAF Rudloe Manor is a UFO tracking Station??

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec(AS)2
24 AUG 1987
FILE 12/3

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

E77

file copy

Section 40

D/Sec(AS)12/3

07 August 1987

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 23 July which was addressed to Royal Air Force Boulmer. I am replying on their behalf.

RAF Boulmer have checked their records covering the period 2 to 22 April 1987 and they are unable to confirm or deny that your reports of "unknown targets" originated from aircraft taking part in exercises being carried out at the time.

Nonetheless I can inform you that day-to-day practice sorties are carried out over the North Sea and would not normally be visible from the coast. However, between 6 and 10 April the RAF was involved in Exercise Mallet Blow and from 13 to 15 April, Exercise Priory took place in a similar area. Both of these events did include a number of low flying target aircraft which would have flown inland from the North Sea towards approved firing ranges in the Otterburn area. Unfortunately though, we are unable to tie any particular aircraft to any given 'UFO' sighting.

I hope that this is of some help.

Yc

Section 40

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

E76

file copy

Section 40

D/Sec(AS)12/3

9 August 1987

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter which I read with interest. Before I answer your specific questions you may find it helpful if I explain that whilst we do receive and co-ordinate some information about UFO sightings, the main concern of the Ministry of Defence is to determine whether or not Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they do, and this is not normally the case, no attempt is made by MOD to investigate or identify the objects. Information that we have is therefore limited to the brief details of the sightings passed on to us by those who witnessed the phenomena.

Turning to your question about the Rendlesham Forest "incident" the only information that we have on this alleged "UFO sighting" in December 1980 is the report by Colonel Charles Halt, of the United States Air Force. As requested I attach a photocopy of his report for your information. There is certainly no evidence at present either here or elsewhere that "alien spacecraft" have landed on the planet. Since our interest in UFOs is limited to possible defence implications we have not carried out a study into the scientific significance of UFOs. I'm sure that you will appreciate that defence funds are fully committed to the continuing security of the UK against, primarily, aggression from the Warsaw Pact countries. This being so we could not justify the use of defence funds on scientific investigations, unless a clear threat to the security of the UK had been identified.

Nonetheless it is clear from the reports that we receive that many strange things have been observed in the sky, although we believe that rational explanations could probably be found for most of them. Possibilities include satellite debris re-entering the earth's atmosphere, ball lightning, unusual cloud formations, meteorological balloons, aircraft lights, aircraft at unusual angles or a host of other things.

Lastly I would like to assure you that there is no question of attempting to cover up any incident or mishap, nor are we attempting in any way to obscure the truth about UFOs.

I hope that this proves helpful.

Yours

Section 40

[redacted]

With the compliments of

Squadron Leader Operations

Royal Air Force

6 ABG (RAF)

Boulmer

Alnwick, Northumberland

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
FILE NE66 3JF

Longhoughton Section 40

Re Telecon S/L Section 40

File 12/3 E75

Royal Air Force Boulmer
Alnwick
Northumberland NE66 3JF

Telephone Section 40

Section 40

Please reply to Officer Commanding
Your reference

Our reference BMR/35/Ops

Date August 1987

Dear Sir

PROJECT ORION - AERIAL PHENOMENON

Your letter dated 23rd July 1987 refers. We have checked our records covering the period 2nd to 22nd April 1987 and are unable to confirm or deny that your reports of "unknown targets" originated from aircraft taking part in exercises being carried out at the time.

I can inform you that our day-to-day practice sorties are carried out over the North Sea and would not normally be visible from the coast. However, between the 6th and 10th April 1987 we were involved in Exercise Mallet Blow and from the 13th to the 15th April 1987, Exercise Priory took place in a similar area. Both of these events did include a number of low flying target aircraft which would have flown inland from the North Sea toward approved firing ranges in the Otterburn area. Unfortunately I am unable to tie any particular aircraft to any given 'UFO' siting.

I am sorry that I cannot be of more help in this matter.

Yours faithfully

Section 40

Squadron Leader
for Officer Commanding

Reply sent 07/08 Section 40

(E74)

9

FROM: THE DIRECTOR OF INVESTIGATIONS PROJECT ORION

TO: ROYAL AIR FORCE BOULMER OPERATIONS

Section 40 [redacted]

SUBJECT: AERIAL PHENOMENON

23rd July 1987

Dear Sir,

With reference to the above named subject;

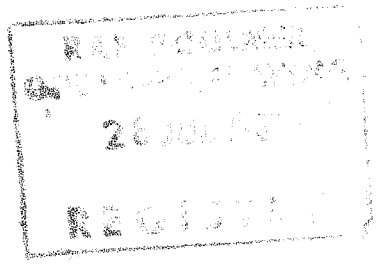
From April 2nd to April 22nd, 1987, a number of local residents living in the Hartlepool area, were witness to several overflights of purported 'UFO' type phenomenon. According to a spokeman at Newcastle Airport [22.4.87], he advised interested journalists, that the targets could well have been low flying military aircraft which were indeed participating in exercises.

Can you confirm that unknown targets were part of that exercise?

All information submitted, will be used for research purposes only. We are keen to identifty phenomena, and thus, close this report. Waiting with interest for your reply.

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]



Copy sent 6/1/88

(E73)

Section 40 [redacted]

2/3

Section 40 [redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
- 7 AUG 1987
FILE 12/3

Dear Sir/Madam

For the past few years I have been interested in U.F.O's. I read with interest the book "Skycrash" published in 1984 containing facts and detailed information and research about an alleged landing of a strange craft in the vicinity of R.A.F. Bentwaters in Rondlesham forest, on the 26th Dec 1980. Also it tells of strange activities in the forest between Dec 26th and Dec 29th.

Could you tell me what did happen on the last few nights in December 1980. What do your records show? did a landing occur? was there alien contact?

The book tells of photographs, cine film, tape recordings and radar tapes from the incident, which witnesses have seen but the Ministry of Defence has denied all ~~of~~ knowledge of. Have you such things in your possession

Could I have a copy of Lt.Col. Charles Halt's ~~Base commander~~ (deputy base commander at the time of the incident) letter dated 13th Jan 1981, subject unexplained lights. And also copies of the relevent file information concerned with the Rondlesham forest sightings. What did the M.O.D's investigation conclude?

Why is there a government cover up of important information such as U.F.O's which could change the world? I would be grateful if you could answer my questions; Hoping to hear from you soon

Yours Sincerely

Section 40 [redacted]

(age 14)

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

E72

lib copy

Section 40

D/Sec(AS)12/5

5 August 1987

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your recent letter which has been forwarded to me for attention.

You asked for any information that the Ministry of Defence might possess on Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs). It might help if I first explain that whilst we do receive and co-ordinate some information about UFO sightings, the main concern of the Ministry of Defence is to determine whether or not UFOs, as reported to us, present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom. Unless there are any defence implications we do not attempt to identify sightings nor can we inform observers of the probable identity of the object seen. Information that we have is therefore limited to the brief details of the sightings passed on to us by those who witnessed the phenomena.

As far as the release of this material en bloc is concerned all MOD files are subject to the Public Records Act. Under this Act official files generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. However, we are able to answer any specific queries you may have about particular incidents which have occurred recently and can let you know whether we have a report on the incident and if so what it contains.

I hope you will find this helpful.

Section 40

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40 (E71)

Like copy

Section 40

D/Sec(AS)12/3

5th August 1987

Thank you for your letter dated 13 July which has been forwarded to me for attention.

You asked for any information that the Ministry of Defence might possess on Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs). It might help if I first explain that whilst we do receive and co-ordinate some information about UFO sightings, the main concern of the Ministry of Defence is to determine whether or not UFOs, as reported to us, present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom. Unless there are any defence implications we do not attempt to identify sightings nor can we inform observers of the probable identity of the object seen. Information that we have is therefore limited to the brief details of the sightings passed on to us by those who witnessed the phenomena.

As far as the release of this material en bloc is concerned all MOD files are subject to the Public Records Act. Under this Act official files generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. However, we are able to answer any specific queries you may have about particular incidents which have occurred recently and can let you know whether we have reports on the incident and if so what it contains.

I hope you will find this helpful.

Section 40

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

E70

file copy

Section 40

D/Sec(AS)12/3

4 August 1987

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letters of 28 July which have been forwarded to me for attention.

You may find it helpful if I explain that whilst we do receive and co-ordinate some information about UFO sightings, the main concern of the Ministry of Defence is to determine whether or not UFOs, as reported to us, present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they do, and this is not normally the case, no attempt is made by MOD to investigate or identify the objects. Information that we have is therefore limited to the brief details of the sightings passed on to us by those who witnessed the phenomena.

There is no department within the Ministry of Defence appointed solely for the purpose of studying reports of UFO sightings and we have no staff who are employed on the subject full time. This being so we do not have the resources to undertake any further investigations or general surveys on the UFO phenomenon. The reports we receive are referred to staff in the Department who are responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom, and they examine the reports as part of their normal duties.

Since our interest in UFOs is limited to possible defence implications we have not carried out studies into the scientific significance of these phenomena. I'm sure you will appreciate that defence funds are fully committed towards our continuing security against, primarily, aggression from the Warsaw Pact countries.

Nonetheless, it is clear from the reports that we receive that many strange things have been observed in the sky, although we believe that rational explanations can probably be found for most of them. The objects may be satellite debris re-entering the earth's atmosphere, ball lightning, abnormal cloud formations, meteorological balloons, aircraft or a host of other things. There is certainly no evidence that "alien spacecraft" have landed on the planet.

I hope you will find this helpful.

Yours Sincerely,

[redacted]

Section 40

E69

Section 40

Section 40

[redacted]

Dear sir

please send me Information on UFOs and also MOD policy towards UFOs. Please reply as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

PS Naughty Mr Wright for writing SPY CATCHER wasn't it but the Government doesn't like the truth does it.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
- 5 AUG 1987
FILE 12/3

Rang 04/8. [see E68 & 12/2]

E68

Section 40

Cpl Section 40 - Rudloe Manor re

rang

He sent a UFO report of a sighting in Harrogate to us few weeks ago (he thinks 14/7). Can only remember that it was from a Section 40 something.

Section 40 chap called Section 40 is now asking for info on the sighting. Pse try to dig out papers & give Cpl Section 40 a ring.

T. Y.

Rang Section 40 4/8. I suggested that we will reply to Section 40 & Section 40 will forward Section 40 letter we today. Section 40 4/8

Section 40 3/7.

FILE 12/3

No copy required. I don't understand it!

File 12/3

E67

Section 40 S/E

[redacted]

(date as postmark)

Dear Madam/Sir,

Thank you for your enquiry concerning RIGHT OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDERS TO ELECT AN MP TO WESTMINSTER CAMPAIGN.

However, I no longer take part and suggest you refer to the Falkland Islanders and their Head of State.

A set of campaign literature (written and produced by Section 40) is available at £5 from:

[redacted]

Yours Sincerely,

[redacted]

N.B. Titles currently available from Section 40 include:

How to Nurture Yourself (Campaign Manifesto of Britannia's People) @ £1;
The Mind Whore @ £2;
Sun, Moon and Stars @ £3;
A Woman of Chad @ £4.

All prices include postage & packing within Great Britain.

Dear [redacted]

Britannia's People are putting forward, for discussion, a Head of State Parliament. Legislation only becoming law if approved by said Parliament. Approval being obtained by a postal ballot of the electorate.

Interestingly, an implication would be that there would no longer be a rational reason for denying, members of the Royal family, the basic human-right of the vote.

[redacted]

P.S. Britannia starves in Omaha.

Section 40 [redacted] 3/8 draft reply for you to look at

Section 40 [redacted] 30 (EGS) 4/5

[redacted] 3/8 Fine Hank.

Section 40

Section 40 [redacted]

PRO DS8, MOD, Whitehall.

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a British citizen, I would like the following questions answered concerning Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs).

1. Opinions of Close Encounters - Grades 1, 2, 3 & 4.

2. Is there a random or a significant aspect of these reports nationally?

3. Is there a random or a significant aspect of trained observers' (radar/visual) reports, of military and commercial origin?

4. Results of scientific establishment study reports.

5. What is the military view - a serious threat, or unknown?

6. What artifacts and physical evidence are known to exist?

7. What proportion of UFOs are in fact IFOs (Identified Flying Objects)?

8. Where is the estimated or known source of UFOs/IFOs?

9. What international liaison exists at Governmental level on this subject?

10.What scientific studies are currently in progress?

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
29 JUL 1987
FILE 12/3

Section 40 [redacted] (E65)

3/8

Section 40 [redacted]

PRO RAF Air Intelligence, MOD, Whitehall.

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a British citizen, I would like the following questions answered concerning Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs).

1. Opinions of Close Encounters - Grades 1, 2, 3 & 4.

2. Is there a random or a significant aspect of these reports nationally?

3. Is there a random or a significant aspect of trained observers' (radar/visual) reports, of military and commercial origin?

4. Results of scientific establishment study reports.

5. What is the military view - a serious threat, or unknown?

6. What artifacts and physical evidence are known to exist?

7. What proportion of UFOs are in fact IFOs (Identified Flying Objects)?

8. Where is the estimated or known source of UFOs/IFOs?

9. What international liaison exists at Governmental level on this subject?

10. What scientific studies are currently in progress?

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
29 JUL 1987
FILE 12/3

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40 (E64)

Section 40

D/Sec(AS)12/3

28 July 1987

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter which has been forwarded to me for attention. I would like to apologise for the delay in replying.

You asked for any information that the Ministry of Defence might possess on Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs). It might help if I first explain that whilst we do receive and co-ordinate some information about UFO sightings, the main concern of the Ministry of Defence is to determine whether or not UFOs, as reported to us, present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom. Unless there are any defence implications we do not attempt to identify sightings nor can we inform observers of the probable identity of the object seen. Information that we have is therefore limited to the brief details of the sightings passed on to us by those who witnessed the phenomena.

As far as the release of this material en bloc is concerned all MOD files are subject to the Public Records Act. Under this Act official files generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. However, we are able to answer any specific queries you may have about particular incidents which have occurred recently and can let you know whether we have reports on the incident and if so what it contains.

Lastly I would like to say that contrary to your assumption our UFO report files contain no classified papers. I hope you will find this helpful.

Yours Sincerely

Section 40

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

E63

Section 40

D/Sec(AS)12/3

28 July 1987

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter which has been forwarded to me for attention.

You asked for any information that the Ministry of Defence might possess on Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs). It might help if I first explain that whilst we do receive and co-ordinate some information about UFO sightings, the main concern of the Ministry of Defence is to determine whether or not UFOs, as reported to us, present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom. Unless there are any defence implications we do not attempt to identify sightings nor can we inform observers of the probable identity of the object seen. Information that we have is therefore limited to the brief details of the sightings passed on to us by those who witnessed the phenomena.

As far as the release of this material en bloc is concerned all MOD files are subject to the Public Records Act. Under this Act official files generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. However, we are able to answer any specific queries you may have about particular incidents which have occurred recently and can let you know whether we have reports on the incident and if so what it contains.

I hope you will find this helpful.

Yours

Section 40

Section 40

[redacted]

26th July

Subject: UFO's replied 13/8/87

Dear Sir/madam,

I am writing to you yet again, about the ministrys view on ufos.

Can you confirm the fact that: there are so many hundreds of ufo sightings each year that a secret 30-man Ministry of defence ufo tracking station and research centre at RAF Rudloe Manor in wiltshire is manned 24 hours a day and that a man was arrested at Midnight for nosing around the area?

Also I realise seeing a ufo and a Jumbo jet 2 months ago it happened as the jet flew

from Heathrow to Bangkok, all five crew members were baffled by the ufo with flashing lights they said "It was defintely not an aircraft none of us had ever seen anything like it before."
With these 2 examples, has the mistry of why has to release information about what they know about ufo's?
Could you send me a list of sightings so far this year, without of course people names and address, (which is our policy with our investigators into ufos) In the USA the public are able to receive such information yet in this country we cannot why? They are able to learn that

a ufo crashed in new Mexico in 1947 and the americans retrieved the ufo and the corpses of "four small human-like beings:
What each American president is briefed about a secret intelligence group MAJESTIC 12 that investigates reports and then covers them up to prevent public panic.
Is then, the same policy with the British M.O.D. in keeping with the rest of the world is surely don't tell the public?
I hope that, this beg the forth letter write to the mystery that I will on this occasion receive a reply on your news made

4

in my letter I look
forward to hearing from
you.

I am Sir, your obedt servt

Section 40 [redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
29 JUL 1987
FILE

E62/1

FROM: THE DIRECTOR OF INVESTIGATIONS PROJECTS ORION/PENTAGON

Section 40

TO: ROYAL AIR FORCE RUDLOE MANOR

RUDLOE
3 JUL 1987
REGISTRY
FILE No.

TEL:

SUBJECT: UFO SIGHTING REPORT

25th JULY 1987

DATE: 14th JULY 1987 HARROGATE NORTH YORKSHIRE

replied 12/8/87

Dear Sir/Madam,

With respect to the above named subject & date;

I am led to believe that RAF Rudloe Manor, received a unidentified aerial phenomenon report on the date in question? I myself received a telephone call from a gentleman living in Harrogate giving brief details of an observation made on this date.

The gentleman gave both name & address, but unfortunately I have been unable to trace either. I believe the christian name was Section 40 The subject in question has recently telephoned again, stating that he forwarded your base full details? Can you therefore clarify this matter. I would be interested in acquiring the data submitted, as content would be of course more substantial.

Would it be possible therefore, to acquire this report? All information submitted would be used for research purposes only, and of course, held in the strictest confidence.

I await your reply.

Yours Faithfully,

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
11 AUG 1987
FILE 12/3

Section 40

ukp

NOTE File 12/3

E62
f2

PRO [redacted] (Air 29) : This section deals with miscellaneous Air Force Dept files (Air Ministry). They have no knowledge of any UFO / Flying Saucer files within their part of PRO.

I rang PRO again on 21/07 to confirm. They confirmed that no record was found on Air Ministry, War Office, Navy Dept, or Home Office files.

AHB(RAF): Rang [redacted] : He said that he has no record of any papers being passed to PRO from 40's, 50's and 60's.

Due to this I suggest that the sentence saying "Old files... available for PRO" be deleted. Letter amended accordingly.

[redacted]
21/07

E25/1/1 645
E31/1 E46 E61

CHESHIRE U.F.O. STUDIES CENTRE.

Est 1985

All Reports treated in Strict Confidence

Section 40
[redacted]

17th July 1987.

To: Section 40
Secretariat (Air Staff)2a,
Room Section 40
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
LONDON,
SW1A 2HB.

Ref CUFOSC 7/87EM.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you in reference to a U.F.O. sighting that occured close to R.A.F. St Mawgan,Newquay,Cornwall in early 1985. Infact I did write to yourself about the Case in August 1985,and I received a reply from you dated 12th Dec 1985.

Since our investigations began,we have been unable to identify this sighting, however of late I have recently been contacted by an ex - Member of Staff from the Air Force Base who states that several other people on the Base,at the time,also observed the same sighting as our witness,and that other,more Senior Members of R.A.F. Officers also serving there,had knowledge of this sighting.

I have spoken to this person twice since he first made contact with me,and I am convinced that he is telling the truth. He alleges that this object actually passed over the Base area itself!

Although I fully appreciate that your Department does not have the financial requirements to study all U.F.O. reports forwarded to you,nor the numbers to complete this task,there is surely a Defence criteria in account of this recent information.

Neither a Nimrod aircraft,nor any of the American Stealth or Blackbird aircraft nor a R.P.V. account for the actions of this sighting,and I would appreciate any information you might have in your files about this Case.

Yours Faithfully,

Section 40
[redacted]

CHESHIRE U.F.O. STUDIES CENTRE.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
21 JUL 1987
FILE 12/3

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

E61

41

Section 40

D/Sec(AS)12/3

16 July 1987

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 9 June 1987. I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence does receive reports on sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects. However, I would like to explain that the sole interest of the Ministry of Defence in reported sightings of UFOs is to establish whether they have any bearing on the defence of the country. As a result our records of sightings are limited and do not extend into a study into the scientific significance of these phenomena.

I hope you will find this helpful.

Yours

Section 40

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

E60

Section 40

D/Sec(AS)12/3

16 July 1987

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 12 June 1987 which gave details of various sightings you made during August, September and October 1986. These reports have now been noted.

We are grateful to you for writing about your experiences, although I should explain that whilst we do receive and co-ordinate some information about UFO sightings, the main concern of the Ministry of Defence is to determine whether or not Unidentified Flying Objects, as reported to us, present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they do, and this is not normally the case, no attempt is made by MOD to investigate or identify the objects. We could not justify the use of defence funds on scientific investigations unless a clear threat to the security of the UK had been identified.

Finally, I have looked through our files but regret to say that I can find no trace of the small book to which you refer. I hope this does not cause you any problems.

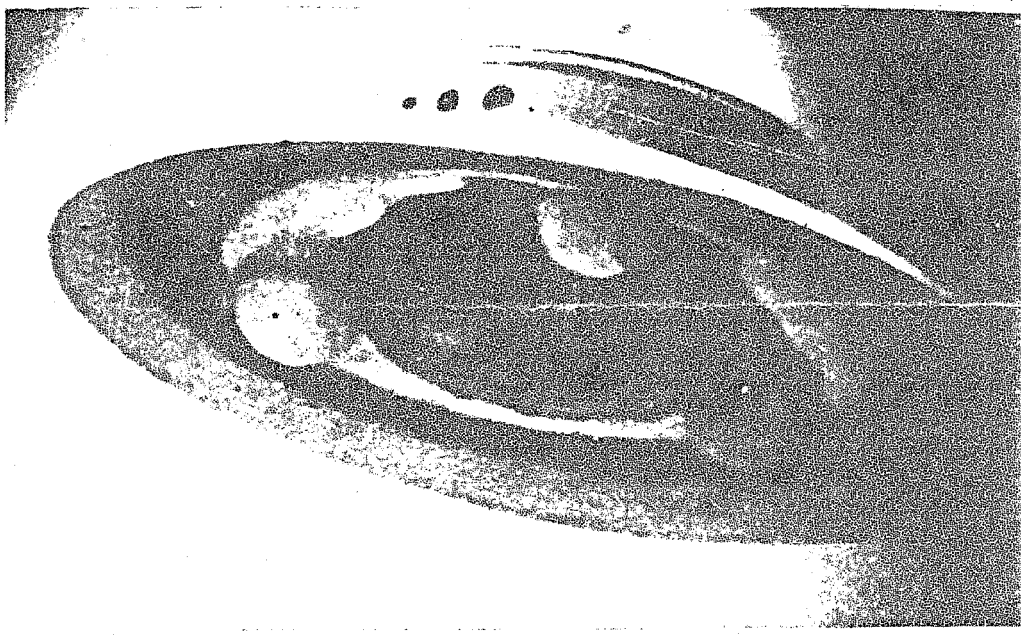
Yours

Section 40

ES9
(1 OF 4 PAGES)

Flying Saucers

"An Object was reported . . ."



The origin of the term "flying saucer," as applied to strange objects sighted in the sky, remains obscure, although authorship is claimed by a British journalist. According to him, whilst sitting in a Bronx café talking with three New York reporters, one of whom was doodling on a piece of paper, he observed that the drawing looked like a "flying saucer." One of the Americans decided that they "had something" there and, within the hour the term was in use. Within two, it is claimed that ninety people had reported having seen one.

(Restricted)

Man has always instinctively looked to the sky for signs and portents, nor has he, even to-day, quite lost his inclination to discern and report celestial manifestations. It is not the object of this article to decry or deprecate such reportings—as Shakespeare wrote "There are more things in heaven and earth Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy"—but it is the intention to encourage a rational approach both to the objects themselves and to the method of their reporting.

Generally, reports are of commonplace objects which would normally pass unobserved but which attract attention in the light of more sensational stories, and lend support to them. Thus a meteor or a radio sonde balloon, or even a conventional aircraft, assumes in the perception of some observers speeds, shapes and movements which are entirely uncharacteristic. A well-known astronomer has declared that his experience of the reports of ordinary observers prompts him to reject 95 per cent of what they say, particularly when he knows that they have been startled by a sudden phenomenon which they could have observed for no more than a few seconds.

With such reports we are not seriously concerned. There are a number of other reports on flying saucers which are emphatic statements of visitations from neighbouring planets, and suchlike; these derive both from the imaginings of zealots, admittedly quite serious and sincere in their beliefs, and from charlatans.

VISUAL SIGHTINGS

Reports of sightings themselves reveal certain stereotyped patterns. They usually describe objects as being projectile-shaped, round, oval, or ellipsoidal; they are dazzling-bright, light, shiny, blue-green and generally speaking, irridescent. They move at fantastic speeds in lateral and longitudinal directions; they also hover. Such are the basic lines of description, with inevitable variations.

Practically all of these objects can be roughly identified as follows:—

(*a*) conventional aircraft viewed by the observers from unaccustomed angles

(*b*) present-day jet aircraft, flying at great speeds and great heights, mistaken by untrained and, on occasion, by experienced observers

(*c*) sunlight reflections from aircraft and balloons which themselves are too distant to be observed

(*d*) car headlights reflected on low cloud

(*e*) meteorological, radio sonde and cosmic research balloons of all types

(*f*) bright meteors and fireballs

(*g*) planets observed at certain times of the year

(*h*) birds

(*j*) cloud formations

(*k*) meteorological phenomena, such as mock moons and mock suns.

There are other reports of visual sightings which are admittedly very strange and difficult to classify. They tell of objects which appear to change shape quickly, which move erratically and at fantastic speeds across the sky. Under no consideration could these reports be classified in terms of the objects listed above. It is firmly believed that these reports are made in all sincerity and are in fact

File 12/3
Section 40
15/67

actual sightings—but of reflections from conventional objects.

To give a simple and practical illustration, consider the erratic movements of the reflection on a ceiling from a mirror held under a light and moved even slightly by hand. Similarly, on a vaster and more extended scale, reflections from planets, meteors, aircraft and objects on the ground may be projected on to cloud formations and haze. Then there are the sightings of those planets which are low on the horizon at certain times of the year and which appear to change colour and move erratically, and at fantastic speeds, when observed through haze, or misty atmospheric conditions.

Many reports of such sightings have been received and here is an example of a particular instance where a satisfactory answer was provided. A report made by an experienced B.O.A.C. pilot of a sighting at 19,000 ft. over Goose Bay, Labrador, on Wednesday 30th June 1954 stated that objects had been observed, one primary and six secondary, which "accompanied" the B.O.A.C. aircraft for a distance of about 80 miles : all the time they were under observation, the main object was constantly changing shape. An investigation was carried out by the Americans who obtained a subsequent report from a ship at sea in the same vicinity. This described what was apparently the same phenomenon. Members of the ship's company, however, definitely identified the sighting as the planet Mars, and gave full details of the mirage conditions which were prevailing on that day.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Of photographic evidence little needs to be said. There is nothing in the world more easy to fake than a photographic film or plate and the majority of photographs which have been seen certainly invite suspicion. There are the few pictures that have been published in the press from time to time which are obviously of natural phenomena, such as mock moons and suns, and which emphasise the probability that the objects in the others are faked.

The two reproductions on pages 3 and 4 illustrate clearly the considerable opportunities for faked photography on this subject. That on page 3 in particular could, so easily, be an industrial or operating theatre lamp-shade complete with bulbs.



RADAR SIGHTINGS

Radar "sightings" constitute the re maining source of flying saucer repor and these reports, generally speaking, fa into certain explainable categories.

Radar Echoes

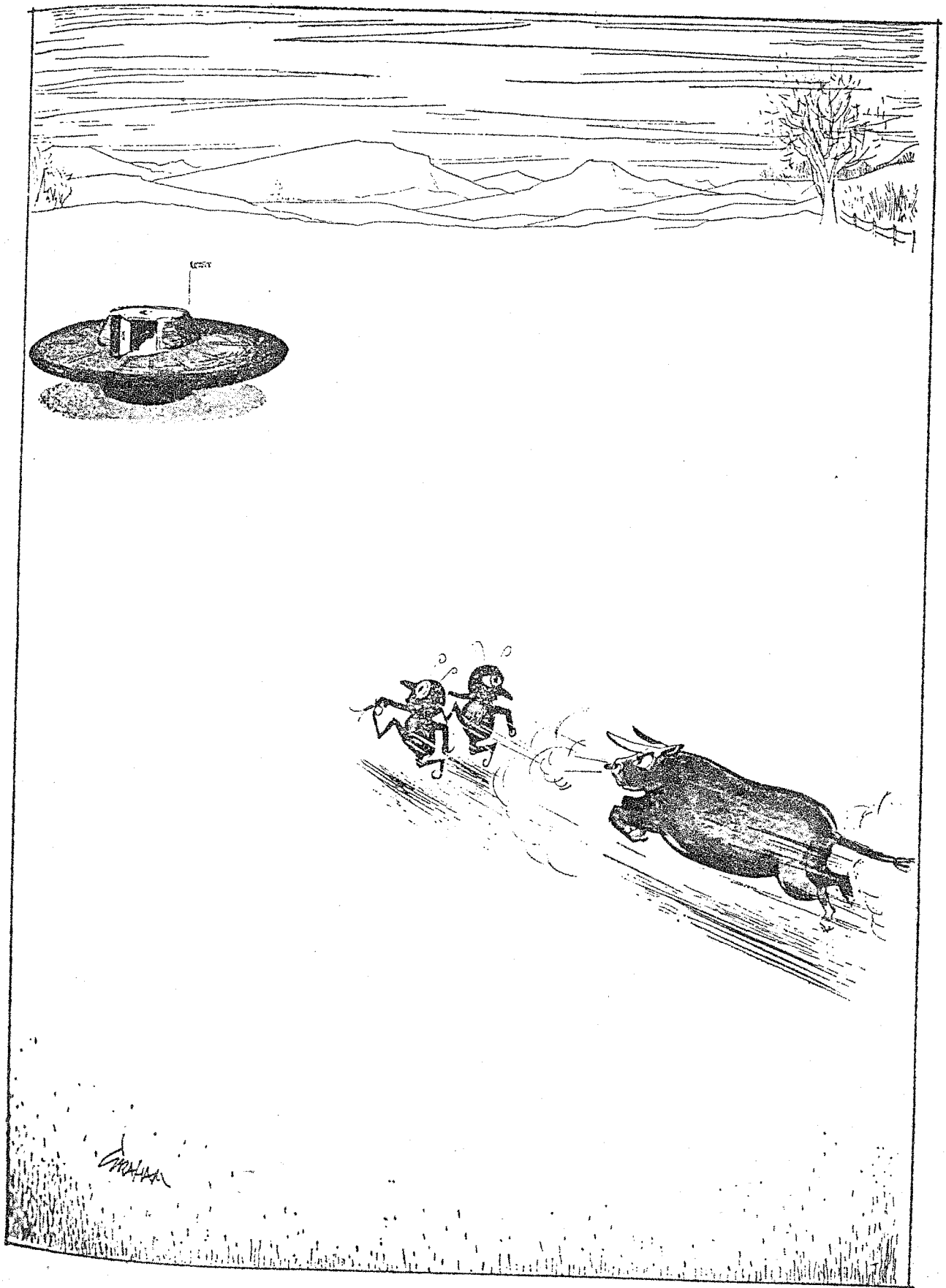
Radar echoes can be produced by variety of objects, not all of which a visible to the human eye. The majority solid objects which return radar ener produce responses on the radar operator tube which are easily recognised : movi objects such as aircraft and birds a normally readily identifiable by the si and shape of the response and by th velocities, altitudes and movement the exhibit. Meteorological balloons mig also be included in this group of identifiab objects as they normally produce qu distinctive echoes, particularly as many c them carry reflectors specially designed t assist in the plotting of their course b radar. However, some balloons, such a those used for ionospheric sounding, fly a altitudes beyond the reach of aircraft an travel with the upper winds at speeds oft in excess of 100 m.p.h. Radar returns fro such balloons, when first encountere could mystify a radar operator and g the impression that a flying saucer has be sighted. On the rare occasions wh reports of unidentified objects have th origin in one of these solid bodies it usually a comparatively simple matter identify the object by enquiries addres to the appropriate authority.

Within a group of radar targets which not controlled or released by man can included birds, meteorological and ast nomical targets. Birds are of little conc as their smallness prohibits responses fr them except at very short ranges but, fr the other targets, responses with q unusual characteristics may be obtained

Echoes from Precipitation

Radar echoes may be produced condensed water vapour in the form raindrops, ice crystals or snow, a phe menon which has been put to good u civil aviation to assist pilots in avoi dangerous cloud formations.

Responses on a radar tube from targets may cover a considerable exhibit irregular, diffused boundaries have a rapidly fluctuating intensity. M ment will generally be related to the of the main air current in which the r situated, and it may be anything from to 100 m.p.h. or more, whilst the



Reproduced by permission of the Proprietors of PUNCH

altitude may range from ground level to 40,000 ft. Generally the nature of the target is obvious by its size and by the pattern of the responses, but the picture changes with time and may appear unusual and confusing to an inexperienced operator.

Non-Standard Atmospherical Conditions

Under certain meteorological conditions inhomogeneities occur in the atmosphere, and these may be responsible for some unusual radar echoes. The required condition can occur up to heights in the order of 200 miles, but the strength of signals returned from such nebulous targets is likely to be too low to produce a distinguishable response except on very rare occasions. Perhaps it is this very rarity which assists in the creation of another saucer.

Unusual meteorological conditions can also cause radar signals to be returned from objects at distances far in excess of the normal range of the radar equipment. Responses caused by this anomalous propagation are superimposed on the usual radar picture of the area and can lead to confusion. The effect occurs most frequently in tropical and sub-tropical areas and usually persists for an appreciable time, sometimes for an hour or more. The effect is well known and because of its relative stability and duration would not normally give rise to unusual reportings.

Ionised Gases

It has been suggested that ionised gas clouds in the atmosphere produce a type of radio echo which may be confused with those from tangible objects. Although radio energy is undoubtedly reflected and refracted by ionised gases (long distance, short wave communications depend on this very fact) the effect falls off very rapidly above, say, 30 Mc/s, whilst 60 Mc/s appears to be the upper limit at which it has been recorded. Some of the early radar equipment still in use does operate within these frequency limits but it is quite incapable of the definition necessary to contribute to the notion of flying saucers. Further, except for the very short-lived effects in the wake of meteorites, ionised gases in the quantities required appear rarely to exist at heights as low as 35 miles.

Meteors and Meteorites

It has been known for many years that radio energy is reflected by meteors, and knowledge of the fact has proved valuable in the hands of astronomers. Meteors reach the outer fringe of the earth's atmosphere in numbers as high as 100,000 per hour but only very few survive long enough to come within the range of radar, the majority being vaporized by frictional heat. Meteors approach the earth at all angles of incidence, from vertical to glancing, and at velocities in the order of 10,000 m.p.h. Radar responses from these astronomical targets appear to be rare, but such targets may produce responses at any range or altitude, subject only to the capabilities of the radar set itself and to the size of the meteor.

Unlike aircraft and balloons the presence of these meteorological and astronomical targets cannot be verified after the event except in the most general way : by carefully sifting operators' reports, and studying meteorological conditions on the paths of expected meteor showers at the time of the incident, it is often possible to produce a tentative explanation for the responses but, because of the transitory nature of the target, it is seldom conclusive.

Radar Equipment Interference

Another possibility which deserves consideration is interference from other radar equipment. Generally, the cause of this type of spurious response is immediately obvious but it can happen that the characteristics of the two radar sets bear such a relationship that the interference gives rise to one, sometimes two, bright spots on the radar tube, which may for a short time exhibit some of the characteristics of an actual target. Even in this case, the true nature of the response can usually be quickly determined except when the interfering radar set is mobile and the operator is unaware of its presence.

INVESTIGATION

The investigation of reports of flying saucers presents very apparent difficulties, the major one of which is that, ninety-nine times out of a hundred, the scent is completely cold. It is only fair to point out that in every other case, *i.e.* when reports are telephoned and promptly checked on the spot, the sighted object has been identified as a balloon or a conventional aircraft. For the investigation of cold-scent reports there are various media through which information and assistance are obtained : the Royal Observatory and the Meteor Section of the British Astronomical Association give information on meteors, fire balls and all astral phenomena ; the Meteorological Office, Royal Air Force Station, Cardington, London Airport and Bristol Univers... cover radio sonde, cosmic research ... other balloons ; Fleet Air Arm and R... Air Force units and formations give det... of aircraft movements ; and the ... police assist in the investigation of all ty... of reports.

From these sources has come most of ... information leading to the true identity ... reported flying saucers, and their ... operation in the tedious processes ... investigation is invaluable. An instance ... given of a report by a man who, returni... home late one night, stated emphatic... that he had seen a flying saucer hovering ... a field quite a short distance from his po... of observation. The " thing," accord... to his story, hovered and moved slowly ... and down. Evidence was obtained fr... the local police to the effect that on t... night, at that time, and in that place, ... unfortunate farmer had lost a hay... by fire !

Generally it can be accepted that, of ... reports received, the vast majority are ... things identifiable as one of the convention... objects enumerated above ; the remain... are unexplained because the evidence ... either too sparse, too vague, or ... contradictory.

As a matter of interest, where the repo... received are explained it is mainly in ter... of meteors, planets, balloons, and aircr... Noteworthy among the other explanati... are included aircraft with rocket-assis... take off, car headlights reflected on l... cloud, and the recently adopted naviga... lighting system of American civil aircr...

Conclusion

The civilised world has become consci... or, perhaps it would be more apt to say ... has been made conscious of flying sauc... or unidentified flying objects : whenever ... airborne body is not clearly recognised ... something conventional it becomes ... mystery whose magnitude varies accord... to the observer's susceptibility. M... people are very susceptible to the influ... of the Press or the radio. A news item o... flying saucer promptly induces a spat... reported new sightings.

Sensible and rational reporting ... unidentified flying objects is the duty of ... who are concerned with flying. Apart f... astral or meteorological phenomena, w... are of interest to specialists in these matt... there is always the chance of observ... foreign aircraft of revolutionary des... As for controlled manifestations from ... space, there is no tangible evidence of t... existence.

Section 40 [redacted] 4/8 [redacted] fine thanks
Section 40 [redacted] 4/8
Draft reply attached for your approval.
Section 40
Section 40 [redacted] 4/8
for reply pse (ES8/5

13-07-87

replied 5/8/87

Section 40 [redacted]

Dear Sir.

I am currently researching U.F.O. reports in my locality, my work is purely statistical and Sociological in nature, but I would find it most useful to find out if the Ministry of Defence has looked into the U.F.O. phenomenon as have the U.S.A.F. and if so are the results of any such investigation been made available to the public.

I do realize that your office must be busy with requests of this nature, but I would appreciate any assistance that you may be able to give me with this enquiry, and in particular as to whether M.O.D. documentation on this phenomenon can be obtained by independent investigators.

Thanking you in Anticipation.

Section 40 [redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
22 JUL 1987
FILE 12/3

MEMORANDUM

MOD Form 4A

To Sec(AS) 2a
Room Section 40
MB, MOD.

From DPF (RAF)
Room Section 40
MB, MOD.

(ES&L)

Date 13 July 87

Tel MB. Section 40

CN

Your ref

Our ref

Subject Request for information on UFO's

1. The attached request from Mr Section 40 for information on UFO's is forwarded for attention.

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
13 JUL 1987
FILE

with the compliments of

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

DPF. RAF. Rm [redacted] main Bldg.

Please accept attached letter for possible assistance.

[redacted] has been informed this letter has been forwarded to you.

RECORDS BRANCH
CPR/PD/40-30
- 3 JUL 1997
MANNING AND RECORDS OFFICE
HM NAVAL BASE
EXETER EX4 4NT

MOD FORM 195

Section 40 [redacted]

ES37/1

reply sent 31/7/87

Dear Sir/Madam,

As part of my integrated humanities course at Mind Leys Community College Shepshed, I am researching into UFO's and I would be very grateful for any information you could send me. I am especially interested in different types of sightings and the problem of verification.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

Sec(AS)2a · Section 40

You may be interested in this which the PAF have forwarded to me. The FCF knows of no 30-man cell !!

THE SUNDAY EXPRESS July 12 1987

Did the aliens warn Neil Armstrong off the Moon?

THE Americans have captured a crashed UFO (unidentified flying object) with four dead aliens inside it, claims the author of a startling new book about flying saucers, Timothy Good.

American spaceships have constantly been shadowed by UFOs, he says, but astronauts have been forbidden to talk about it. And when astronauts Neil Armstrong and "Buzz" Aldrin stepped on to the Moon in 1969, he claims they were watched by two huge UFOs that were sitting on the edge of a crater.

Just another flying saucer crank?

Not at all, says Admiral of the Fleet and ex-Chief of Defence Staff Lord Hill-Norton in a powerful foreword to the book.

Lord Hill-Norton denies that Mr Good is "a nut-case" and says he is a thorough researcher whose book is based "soundly upon fact and a great deal of most convincing evidence which I have not seen in print before."

DOCUMENT

Mr Good's claims are so sensational that even he admits at one stage that many readers may "wonder if I have taken leave of my senses." He claims:—

● That he obtained early this year a top secret 1952 American Government document confirming that a UFO crashed in New Mexico in 1947 and that the Americans retrieved the saucer itself and the corpses of "four small human-like beings."

● That each American President is briefed about a secret intelligence group—Majestic 12—that investigates reports of UFO sightings, then covers them up to prevent public panic.

● That although Neil Armstrong continually denies the report about UFOs on the moon, he has privately confessed that the Americans "were warned off" the Moon by the UFOs and that "there was never any question then of a space station or a Moon city" because "their ships were far superior to ours."

● That in Britain there are so many hundreds of UFO sightings each year that a secret 30-man Ministry of Defence UFO tracking station and research centre at RAF Rudloe Manor in Wiltshire is manned 24 hours a day—and that he was arrested at midnight when he started nosing around the area.

● That Prince Philip believes in UFOs and has told him: "There are many reasons to believe that they do exist. There is so much evidence from reliable witnesses."

Prince Philip is so interested in the subject, says Mr Good, that he regularly receives the magazine *Flying Saucer Review* and ordered a copy of Mr Good's previous UFO book *George Adamski—The Untold Story*.

His uncle Lord Mountbatten was also fascinated by UFOs and seems to have been convinced that a flying saucer landed on his estate at Broadlands in Hampshire in 1955.

SURVIVE

Mountbatten, yet another Admiral of the Fleet and Chief of the Defence Staff, even said of UFOs: "If they really come over in a big way, that may settle the capitalist-communist war. If the human race wishes to survive they may have to band together"—a point that was reiterated two years ago by President Reagan in a conversation with Russian leader Gorbachev at Geneva.

Does Reagan know something sensational about UFOs? Does Gorbachev? Are our leaders hiding something from us all?

Timothy Good insists they are—and the wild, weird case he argues in **ABOVE TOP SECRET: The Worldwide UFO Cover-up (Sidgwick, £14.95)** includes scores of stories of world wide UFO sightings and contacts (by ordinary mortals, Russians, Chinese, even President Jimmy Carter) that are sometimes difficult to explain—like the 1984 sighting over Stanmore in Middlesex by no fewer than eight policemen, for as long as two hours.

What to make of it all?

I'm still sceptical, but millions aren't. Even Air Chief Marshall Lord Dowding once said of UFOs: "I am convinced that these objects do exist and that they are not manufactured by any nation on Earth."

And as recently as 1985 the Zimbabwe air force scrambled two Hawk jets to try to intercept, in vain, a UFO that was tracked on radar above Bulawayo.

Zimbabwe Air Commodore David Thorne told Mr Good: "As far as my Air Staff are concerned, we believe implicitly that the unexplained UFOs are from some civilization beyond our planet."

Books by GRAHAM LORD

POLITICS

Be kind to tricky Dick

HATRED of disgraced ex-president Richard Nixon is still astonishingly widespread, emotional and venomous in America—"the same kind of personal hatred that survivors of Hitler and Stalin in Germany and Russia felt toward their persecutors"—says retired *New York Times* foreign correspondent C L Sulzberger in his serious study of Nixon's place in diplomatic history, THE WORLD AND RICHARD NIXON (Simon & Schuster, £16.95).

This rage against the fallen leader is wildly unbalanced, suggests Sulzberger, who rightly believes that despite Nixon's personal and domestic failings he will be judged much more kindly by history as a great foreign affairs statesman, particularly in his dealings with China and Russia.

And he quotes Dr Henry Kissinger's view of Nixon: "He was a great patriot; he deeply believed in America's mission to protect the world's security and freedom."

HISTORY

A yawn goes on the



■ THE sort of snap that photographers dream of... Ladies Day at Ascot in 1977. From Press sports photographer Eamonn McCabe's striking album of his newspaper pictures, EAMONN McCABE. PHOTOGRAPHER (Kingswood Press. £15).

Haunting the scene of a n



Ross...record of success

CRIME

THE actors and producers who make Britain's most popular factual TV series, the BBC's *Crimewatch U.K.*—in which baffling crimes are reconstructed as realistically as possible and 12 to 15 million viewers asked for help in solving them—are sometimes haunted by the victims of the murders they investigate.

So say the programme's presenters Nick Ross and Sue Cook in their illustrated paperback about the series, *CRIMEWATCH U.K. (Hodder, £6.95)*.

"Shooting a *Crimewatch* reconstruction is often a disturbing experience for all the members of the programme team involved," they say. One actress who looked particularly like the murder victim she was playing could not bring herself to lie on the spot where the body had been found—and the actress who eventually agreed to do the job insisted on having polythene sheeting between her and the ground.

In another case, involving the

with the compliments of

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Can you help this Chap in anyway?

Section 40

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(A)2
3 AUG 1987
FILE 12/3

Section 40

OK thanks G. DPR(RAF.)

please see attached draft. List of addresses has already been produced

MOD FORM 195

Section 40

Section 40

ES816

Dear Sir,

I would like to enquire if you have any records of U.F.O. Sightings in recent years. If you do not have this information could you provide a list of people who would as I am an avid collector of reliable information on this phenomenon.

I am aware of an investigation that the Royal Airforce carried out into UFO activity and would appreciate any information that is available

Thank you for your time

Sincerely

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
- 5 AUG 1987
FILE 12/3

Section 40

BY AIR MAIL PAR AVION

AEROGRAMME



Gateway Bridge, Brisbane, Queensland

50c AUSTRALIA



Nomad

FOLD SIDE FLAPS FIRST

FOLD SIDE FLAPS FIRST

SW1

TO The Department of Defence

Royal Air Force

Department of Information Records

London RAF 88 Base

COUNTRY OF DESTINATION England



SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

Pasco

Postic

[redacted]

Auckland POSTCODE [redacted]

TO OPEN SLIT HERE FIRST

DO NOT WRITE BEYOND THIS LINE

with the compliments of

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Section 40 [redacted]

The attached letter is referred for your action as necessary.

Section 40 [redacted]

LOG Sec (Mov)

MS Section 40 [redacted]

MOD FORM 195

ACDS (L)
ASSISTANT CHIEF
OF
DEFENCE STAFF
(LOGISTICS)

(2) (T2) ES8

Section 40 [redacted]

28th June.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I noticed a letter in a newspaper concerning the latest upsurge of public interest in life on other planets & related topics.
As no doubt you are aware from "the files" its nothing new!

I reckon, personally, that we should pay more interest to what is going on on our own planet ie the pollution & chemical warfare & all that sort of stuff.

If you listen to schoolkids they seem to think so. There's still interest about life on other worlds, but they seem happy to view it on cartoons & videos etc.

Who knows! Maybe ~~there~~ there will be a "visitation" one day. I wonder what "they'd" think of current times.

Section 40 [redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
- 7 JUL 1987
FILE 12|3

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff)2a

(ES7)

Section 40

D/Sec(AS)12/3

26 June 1987

Thank you for your letter dated 28 May 1987 about UFOs. We were interested to receive your views which have been noted.

Section 40

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff)2a

Section 40

D/Sec(AS)12/3

26 June 1987

Thank you for your letter of May 1987 about information on UFOs. I can assure you that the Ministry of Defence has no wish to withhold information on any specific "incident" although we could not justify the effort required to sort and collate such reports as we have, in response to general enquiries.

I should explain that the sole interest of the Ministry of Defence in reported sightings of UFOs is to establish whether they have any bearing on the defence of the country. We have found no evidence to suggest that these phenomena represent a threat to the nation and therefore cannot justify devoting Defence resources either to their investigation, or to any further detailed analysis of the data we do hold.

I hope you will find this helpful.

Section 40

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff)2a

file

ESS

Section 40

D/Sec(AS)12/3

26 June 1987

Thank you for your letter in which you enquired about a sighting you made on 16 May near Nelson, Lancs.

As I explained to you in my previous letter of 7 November 1986, since we have no evidence to suggest that these aerial phenomena represent a threat to national defence, the MOD is unable to justify devoting defence resources to their investigation. Nonetheless the details of your report have been noted. Yours was, incidentally, the only report we have received of a sighting on 16 May.

I am sorry I cannot be more helpful.

Section 40

Section 40 [redacted] 1816

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

E54/2

13/6/87.

Dear Sir,

You may already be aware that I am a UFO investigator and researcher for the respected 'Yorkshire UFO Society' in Leeds. And I have written to the MOD on the UFO subject many times before.

I was very much interested to hear about the release of the 'Churchill documents' on the UFO subject. And I would be very much appreciated if I could obtain copies of these documents from you, if possible?

I would be obliged if you can reply back to me on this matter!

Yours Sincerely

Section 40 [redacted]

E16 part A
E17 E21/3 E34 E47

File 12/3 copied

Section 40 [redacted] 4/7

Section 40 [redacted] ESW

12.6.87.

Dear Sir

These are a few more things I think

Aug 1986 there was another 2 ft wide mark on the field again. I think it is the mark of the space car. It started at the top of the football pitch came down to about 20ft from the bottom of the field and near the side of my house

Friday 29th Aug 1986 Something flew over the corner of the back of the house and flew up the field about 11.45am I heard it zoom and there was a red glow

Mon 1st Sept 1986 I was sat in the house and it had gone dark I looked through the window and saw something flying at the top of Silch lane it went over the top Farm so I went to the door to check if there was any sound and there was none So I kept it in sight

and watched it fly over the second farm and then over High Walls Farm above Thornse School. I had walked into the field so I walked to the end of Portland rd over the rd to see if I could pick it up flying towards the Winberry Wood Mellor rd but I could not see it. It was a flying saucer there was no sound and it even looked like one of the photos in the Warminster book. I went back in and about ten minutes later an aircraft flew over with it lights flashing on and off. I went to the door to check if there was any sound and I could hear the aircraft it even echoed and threw the sound to the righ of the aircraft. The aircraft had flew over the Diglands and then towards the Winberry Wood and on to Manchester airport. I have

warned the boys who brought my potatoes and again in a open minded sweys and we laughed. The Farmers do not like saying very much about it and do not like it should get onto there land like it got onto my back garden I say it was on my back garden and not that it got into the house. I should think it is something that is kept secret so as not to alarm people.

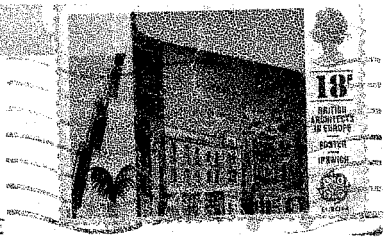
Monday 20th Oct 1986 I was walking down High Hill coming from a Local History night class and about 9.45pm I saw something fly low across Eaves Knoll Farm fields towards Apple Tree rd I looked to see if it flew on towards [redacted] Section 40 farm but it did not. It must have flown over the hill and near the back of the Golf Club so that it flew out of sight. It was the same orangy light that flew from the top of Sitch

Lane over the farms down towards the High Walls Farm and Thorasett School.
Could you please write to say you have recieved these notes and the little book I sent last year.

Yours faithfully

Section 40

P.S. Could someone watch to see if it explode Aug, Sept, Oct, this year.



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING
WHITEHALL.
SW1A 2HB.

Sec(AS)1
Room Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
17 JUN 1987
DCS ALLOCATIONS

Carlisle Flying Saucer UFO CLUB

(+2) E54 (1 of 4 PAGES)

Section 40

[redacted]

Rec'd 26/6/87

you Have Files on UFO
which is cept From
The public because
may be it would cause
a Pannick just like
war of The worlds
This May be not True

P T O

we know that Top
secret on UFOs you
Have just like Project
Blue Book it was
Top secret on Flying
saucers but Iv got
The Book their are
some UFO in The Book
of crash craft with
Body. one intresting
is That a pilot was
Flying his plaine saw an
craft his radio last said
my god iis huge why
if only you new BUT THE
people did try to make
contact Bui fail to
warn him to keep
away but this ACSDent

With The UFO and His
Plane did happen his
Body and his Plain
was found not much
left The craft did and
it would seen to give
off an energy around
The craft There are many
more in The Book and
some other Books Iv got
so I could see your Files
on UFO You Have Them
we invesagatours DO
know about your
cover up That you make
and so DO The FBi
CIA Some Day we will
all know

Do not lie we are
not born yesterday

The Books are
WHAT YOU call
Top SECRET You
will never get Them
Till YOU START letting
The PUBLIC on all
Files on UFO Then
may be YOU can see
Them so YOU can
see I can DO The
same as YOU can
This letter is not
A Joke I FIND UFO
very good YOU MUST
DO The same These
craft can be use for
WAR which is FORBIDDEN
UN les They Have TO.

YORKSHIRE UFO SOCIETY

Section 40 (Hor

He letter he
a draft

SEEK AND YOU WILL FIND

Reply To:

Section 40

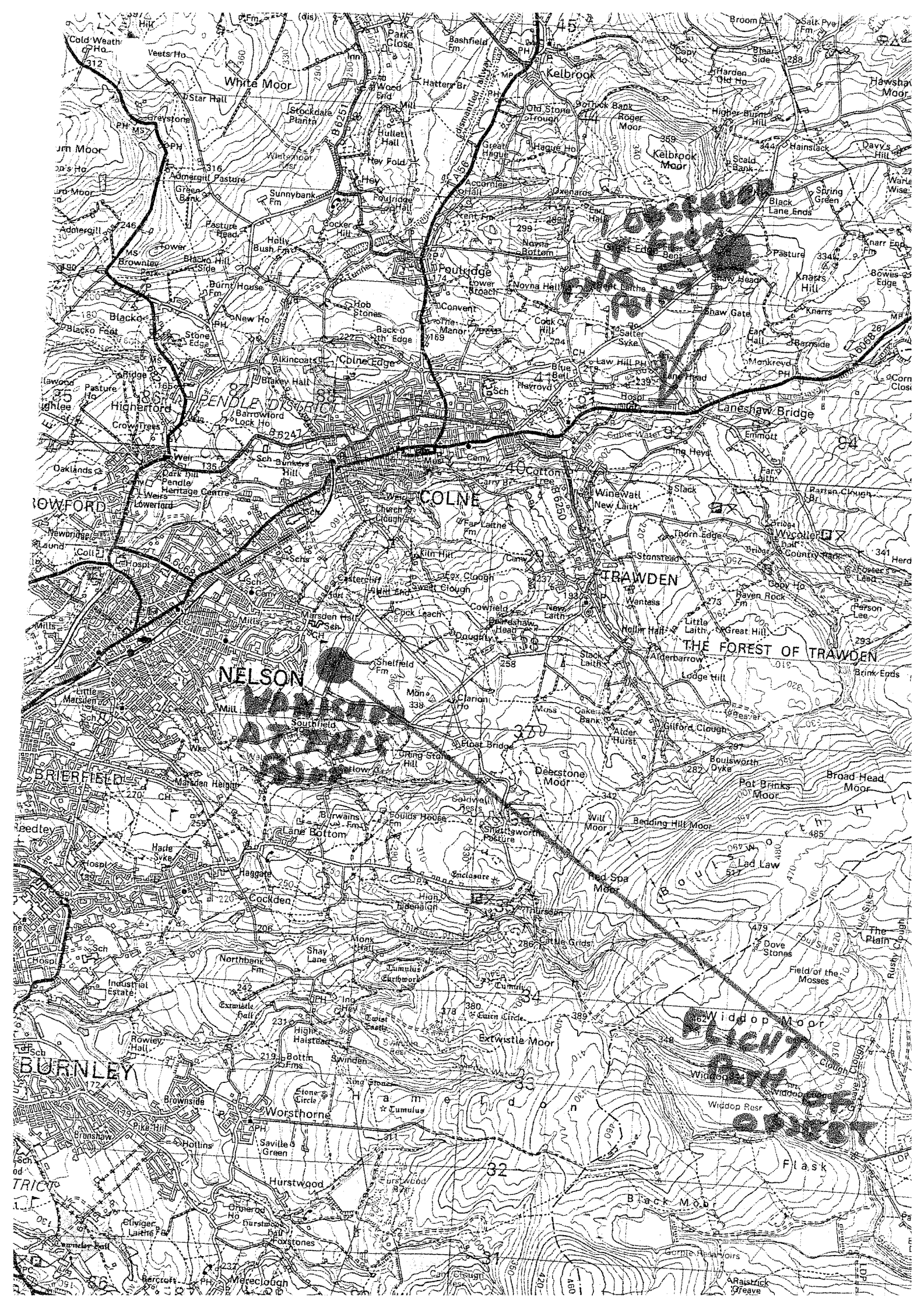
Yorkshire UFO Society (Y...

Section 40

Dear Sir

Section 40

On Saturday th
9 was at about forty five pm
my car 9 observed a luminous green objec
with a red at the bottom of it.
It was traveling across the hills toward
Nabson golf links map ref long 88 by lat
37 it was visable for six seconds and
from where 9 first observed it traveled about
three miles then just vanished. 9 worked
the speed out and it was doing about
1800 miles per hour to fast for a plane
and to slow for a shooting star hope
you can shed some light on this object.
Yours Faithfully
P. S. 9 have enclosed a photo copy
of the ordnance Survey map to help you


COLNE
NELSON
BRIERFIELD
BURNLEY
TRAWDEN
THE FOREST OF TRAWDEN
PENDLE DISTRICT
Kelbrook
Kelbrook Moor
Foulridge
Laneshaw Bridge
Winewall
Wycoller
Wycoller Hall Country Park
Stonestead
Wanless
Alderbarrow
Lodge Hill
Deerstone Moor
Pot Brinks Moor
Broad Head Moor
Will Moor
Bedding Hill Moor
Red Spa Moor
Lad Law
Widdop Moor
Widdop Reservoir
Widdop Clough
Extwistle Moor
Cattle Grids
Worsthorne
Hurstwood
Hameldon
Cliviger Gate
Mereclough
Colne Edge
Blacko
Blacko Foot
Higherford
Crow Trees
Pendle Heritage Centre
Lowerford
Oaklands
Park Hill
Weirs
Newbridge
Foulridge Hall
Foulridge Reservoir
Nanny Bottom
Knarrs Hill
Knarrs
Bowes Edge
Shaw Gate
Shaw Head
Salter Syke
Barnside
Monkroyd
Law Hill PH
Blue Bell
Lane Head
Hayroyd
Emmott
Ing Heys
Cotton Tree
Carry Br
Far Laithe Fm
Church Clough
Kiln Hill
Fox Clough
Sweet Clough
Cowfield
New Laith
Boardshaw Head
Doughty
Hollin Hall
Little Laith
Great Hill
Stack Laith
Raven Rock Fm
Person Lee
Brink Ends
Thorn Edge
Stansfield Hall
Slack
Winewall New Laith
Far Laithe
Barren Clough
Cock Beach
Marsden Hall
Shelfield Fm
Clarion Ho
Southfield
Float Bridge
Gilford Clough
Alder Hurst
Boulsworth Dyke
Oakenbank
Moss
Caldwell Rests
Shuttleworth Pasture
Bairwains Fm
Soulds House Fm
Lane Bottom
Haggate
Cockden
Higher Standen
Thirlsden
Enclosure
Hare Sykes
Marsden Height
Little Marsden
Mill
Wks
Hospl
Sch
Cemy
Mills
Laund
Coll
Newbridge
Lowerford
Oaklands
Weirs
Park Hill
Pendle Heritage Centre
Crow Trees
Barrowford Lock Ho
Barrowford
Bunkers Hill
Weir
Mere
Cemy
Sch
Alkincoats
Colne Edge
Blakey Hall
Pasture Ho
Higherford
Ridge
Blacko Foot
Stone Edge
Blacko
New Ho
PH
Burnt House Fm
Brownley Park
Admergill
Admergill Pasture
Green Bank
Sunnybank Fm
Pasture Head
Holly Bush Fm
Cocker Hill
Tower
Blacko Hill Side
Hob Stones
Back o' th' Edge
Convent
The Manor
Lower Broach
Cock Hill
Noyna Hall
Noyna Bottom
Earl Hall
Foulridge Hall
Foulridge Reservoir
Accornley Hall
Oxenards
Great Hague
Hague Ho
Hey Fold
Hey
Hullet Hall
Wood End
Hatters Br
Park Close
Bashfield Fm
Leeds & Liverpool Canal
Old Stone Trough
Thick Bank
Roger Moor
Higher Burnt Hill
Copy Ho
Harden Old Ho
Broom
Salt Pye Fm
Blears Side
Hainslack
Davy's Hill
Scald Bank
Spring Green
Black Lane Ends
Earl Hall
Knarr End Fm
Pasture
Lane Ends
Bent
Edge End
Stockdale Plants
Greystone
Star Hall
White Moor
Veets Ho
Cold Weather Ho
Hill
Fm
(dis)
Inn
MP
PH
MS
CH
Sch
Cemy
Hospl
Wks
Mill
Mills
Ho
Fm
Hill
Moor
Hall
Lane
Bridge
Edge
Head
Bank
Hey
Heys
Laith
Clough
Brook
Water
Cotton Tree
Carry Br
Far Laithe Fm
Church Clough
Kiln Hill
Fox Clough
Sweet Clough
Cowfield
New Laith
Boardshaw Head
Doughty
Hollin Hall
Little Laith
Great Hill
Stack Laith
Raven Rock Fm
Person Lee
Brink Ends
Thorn Edge
Stansfield Hall
Slack
Winewall
Wanless
Alderbarrow
Lodge Hill
Deerstone Moor
Pot Brinks Moor
Broad Head Moor
Will Moor
Bedding Hill Moor
Red Spa Moor
Lad Law
Widdop Moor
Widdop Reservoir
Widdop Clough
Extwistle Moor
Cattle Grids
Worsthorne
Hurstwood
Hameldon
Cliviger Gate
Mereclough
Colne Edge
Blacko
Blacko Foot
Higherford
Crow Trees
Pendle Heritage Centre
Lowerford
Oaklands
Park Hill
Weirs
Newbridge
Foulridge Hall
Foulridge Reservoir
Nanny Bottom
Knarrs Hill
Knarrs
Bowes Edge
Shaw Gate
Shaw Head
Salter Syke
Barnside
Monkroyd
Law Hill PH
Blue Bell
Lane Head
Hayroyd
Emmott
Ing Heys

ES21.

File 12/3

replied [redacted] 16/7

Section 40

[redacted]

Section 40

9th June 1987

Dear Sir,

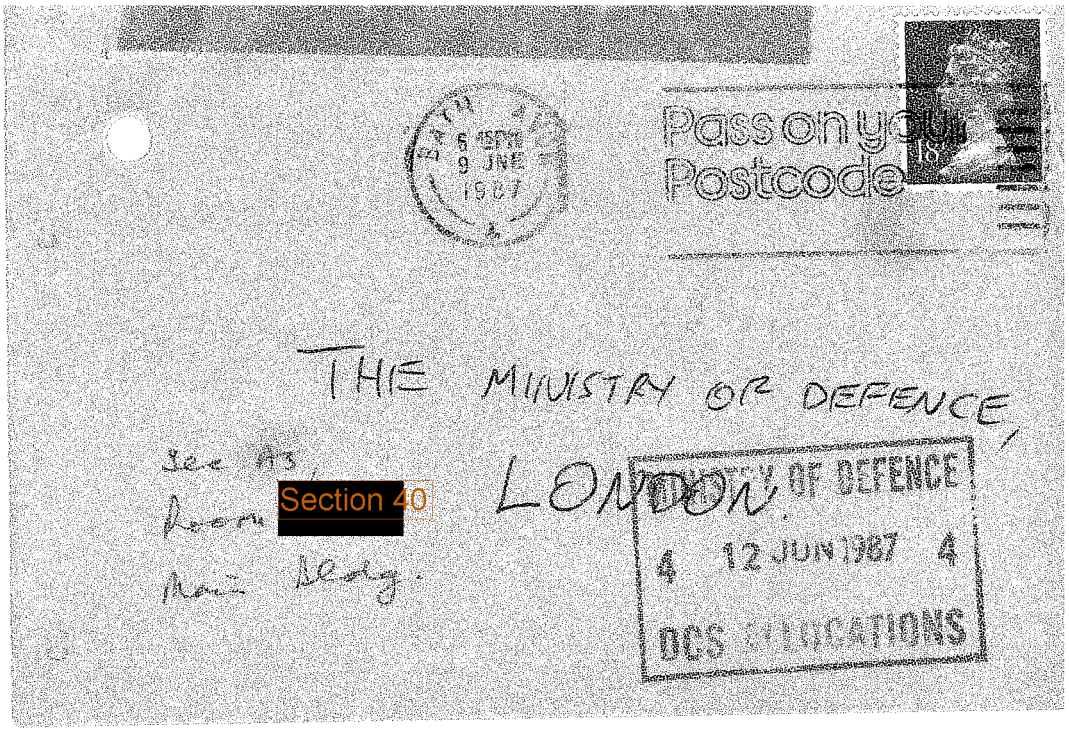
I'm standing in the election and, as you'll appreciate, people are 'talking' to me.

Is it true that you collect sightings of UFOs?

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40

[redacted]



9 JUN 1967

Pass on your Postcode

THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,

Sec A3,

Room Section 40

Main Bldg.

LONDON.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
4 12 JUN 1967 4
DCS LOCATIONS

Lib 12/3

ES2 +1

FINANCIAL TIMES

Iran arms buying to face UK scrutiny

By Andrew Gowers, Middle East Editor

BRITAIN is to step up its monitoring of Iran's arms procurement operations in London and may consider stopping them altogether following the row between the two countries over Mr Edward Chaplin, the British diplomat who was abducted and beaten up in Tehran 12 days ago.

Mr Chaplin was one of five British diplomats ordered to leave the country by the Iranian Government on Saturday. He was due to fly back from Tehran last night after a last-minute administrative hitch delayed his departure on Sunday.

It is understood that the British Government is keen to ascertain whether Iran's arms-buying offices are complying fully with British export-licensing rules. It also plans to take a tougher line on requirements for the Iranian authorities to identify and register staff at the missions.

One option is to close the missions, though officials say that is not the most likely outcome.

Britain says it does not sell weapons to Iran, but it does supply what is described as "non-lethal military equipment" for such purposes as transport.

However, Iran's London procurement offices — of which there are three, one for each armed service, employing a total of about 60 people — are believed to provide an important link in its worldwide arms-buying network.

Diplomats say Britain has not kept as tight a rein on the Iranian operations in the past as it might have done, partly because to do so would have required diverting officials from other tasks.

There are two reasons why the Government has decided to take a more critical look at their activities.

First, it wants to guard against any allegations that it supplies weapons to Tehran. This has become a particularly sensitive issue since the disclosure last year that the US was covertly selling arms to Iran.

Second, the Government does not want its stance in the recent dispute with Iran over the treatment of Mr Chaplin, the first secretary in the British interests section i nTehran, to be interpreted as a sign of weakness.

The Iranian order to Mr Chaplin, and the four other British diplomats to quit the conutry came in response to

Continued on Back Page

Continued from Page 1

Iran arms

Britain's decision to clise Iran's consulate general in Manchester and to expel five consular officials. Britain said last week that any further retaliation by Iran would be regarded as unacceptbale and would have serious consequences for relations between the two countries.

Now that each side has ordered expulsions, some of the heat seems to have been taken out of the row.

DAILY EXPRESS

Kidnap diplomat 'heading home'

By PETER HITCHENS Diplomatic Correspondent

THE FOREIGN Office kept its fingers crossed last night that British diplomat Edward Chaplin and his family will arrive safely in London this morning.

The envoy's first attempt to leave Teheran on Sunday night ended when Revolutionary Guards turned him back, along with his wife Nicola and their two young children at the airport boarding gate.

But the envoy, second-in-command at the British mission in Teheran, who has been threatened with serious "charges" by the Iranian authorities, was not detained and went home.

Yesterday morning the Swedish ambassador protested on Britain's behalf to the Teheran authorities.

And later senior British envoy Christopher MacRae was told in a phone call that the incident had been a "technical hitch," which had since been sorted out.

Last night the Chaplins were due to board the 11.30 p.m. local time flight due to arrive at Heathrow at 9.30 p.m. today.

Retaliated

Mr Chaplain was at the centre of a major diplomatic row after he was beaten up and kidnapped by armed Revolutionary Guards in front of his family 10 days ago.

The officially-condoned abduction followed the arrest in Manchester of an Iranian consul, Ahmed Ghassemi, for shoplifting.

Britain retaliated by throwing out five Iranian diplomats, including Ghassemi, and closing Iran's consulate in Manchester.

A day later, Iran said she was expelling five Britons including Mr Chaplain.

TODAY, TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 1987

NEWS IN BRIEF

Admiral warns of UFO threat

FLYING saucers could be for real, says former head of the Defence Staff Admiral Lord Hill-Norton.

But official reports on UFOs are deliberately being kept from the military top brass, he claims.

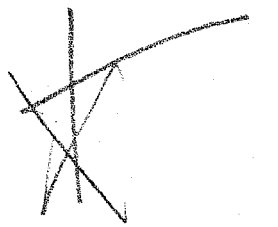
"There is a cover-up," he said yesterday. "There have been tens of thousands of reported sightings all over the world by very reputable people, including military pilots and personnel.

"It is fashionable to rubbish people who talk or write on the subject, but for myself I don't care.

"I am not a nutter. But I find it impossible to believe that all these people are lying."

While he was Britain's top military planner between 1971 and 1973, reports on flying saucers were collected by the Ministry of Defence without his knowing, Lord Hill-Norton said.

Yet it was clear from eye witnesses that UFOs could outperform any aircraft available to the RAF or the US Airforce.



From: Mrs Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

file

EST

Section 40

D/Sec(AS)12/3

9 June 1987

Thank you for your letter in which you related your experience of Wednesday 20 May.

You may find it useful if I explain first of all that the sole interest of the Ministry of Defence in reported sightings of UFOs is to establish whether they have any bearing on the defence of the country. Unless there are defence implications we do not attempt to identify sightings, nor can we inform observers of the probable identity of the object seen.

We have to recognise that there are many strange things to be seen in the sky but we believe there are adequate explanations for them, and there is certainly no evidence to suggest that "alien spacecraft" have landed on our planet. Incidentally we received no other reports of a UFO sighting on 20 May.

I am sorry that I cannot be more helpful.

Section 40

From: Mrs Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

ESO

file copy

Section 40

D/Sec(AS)12/3

9 June 1987

Thank you for your letter dated 17 May regarding the UFO phenomena. It may help if I explain first of all that the sole interest of the Ministry of Defence in reported sightings of UFOs is to establish whether they have any bearing on the defence of the country. We have found no evidence that these phenomena represent a threat to national defence and therefore cannot justify devoting MOD resources to their investigation.

We have to recognise that there are many strange things to be seen in the sky, not all of them saucer shaped, but we believe that there are adequate explanations for them. They may be satellite debris re-entering the earth's atmosphere, ball lightning, unusual cloud formations, meteorological balloons, aircraft lights, aircraft at unusual angles, or many other things.

I hope you will find this helpful.

Section 40

[redacted] 1. [redacted] → FILE NOTE

q/b · 2. file · (E49/1)

You wanted to know

who to speak to over

D Se (A-) about how

to do more info sta for

us.

I spoke to

[redacted] (HSO) [redacted] (Has actually left the job)

[redacted] (PSO) [redacted]

and [redacted] (PPsych) [redacted] (Ro).

[redacted]

Spoke [redacted] and made it clear that we have no "need" for UPO stats to be completed although we are happy for them to go ahead if they wish (and by implication with a minimum of staff assistance from Lara). [redacted] said they would need to consider whether or not to proceed. I offered to mediate him but he preferred not at this stage. [redacted] 9/6.

fb 12/3

F.6 (E49)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference D/Sec(AS)12/3

Date 29 May 1987

Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 10 March which was received in the Army Press Office. I have been asked to reply and am sorry not to have been able to do so before now.

I was interested to read BUFORA's booklet on the "Mystery of the Circles" and appreciate the thought behind your invitation to MOD to attend the meeting on 6 June. I regret however that whilst, as you know , our only interest in UFO's is to establish whether or not they represent a threat to the defence of the UK, we can see no direct interest to MOD in the unexplained circles. I am afraid therefore that we see no value for us in the meeting, to which we would also have nothing to contribute as we have no expertise whatsoever on the question of the circles. This includes Lt Col Section 40 who visited Section 40 in 1985 primarily to establish whether a military aircraft (helicopter) could have been responsible for the "circles", but was unable to reach a conclusion.

I am sorry that I cannot be more helpful.

Section 40

FILE NOTE

Section 40

Spoke [redacted] 28 May 87

Explained that MoD would not respond to the media in circles, and outlined the difficulties + likelihood that any MoD rep there would be pressed on UFOs + misrepresented.

He undertook to contact Sec(AS) in advance & approached duty I. entitled should ever of attending in a personal capacity + said we would want to know if he planned to do this.

He noted on that publication of this minute was technically an infringement of the official Secrets Act, although not seen no chance of damage.

Section 40

May 28th 87

FB 12/541

Section 40 [redacted]

Dear Sir's This very interesting subject of UFO's.
Another angle to the subject not yet mentioned.
According to the BIBLE, GOD created the Earth, and all that therein is.
If I am not mistaken, there is no mention of HIM creating life on any other Planet.
Therefor UFO's must be from this Earth.
It appears to be a question of, Who's kidding Who.

Section 40 [redacted]

replied 26 June 87

Section 40 [redacted]

Ministry of Defence
Room Section 40
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Dear Sirs,

I feel I ought to write to you to tell you about my experience. On Wednesday the 20th of May I was lying on my bed when I saw an object flashing white, green and red speed past the window. This was late at night and I'm sure it wasn't a plane or helicopter. I'm absolutely convinced this was a U.F.O and I would like to know if anybody else reported it or if it showed up on radar. In the interests of national security I am prepared to say nothing about this to the press until I have been advised by you on the situation.

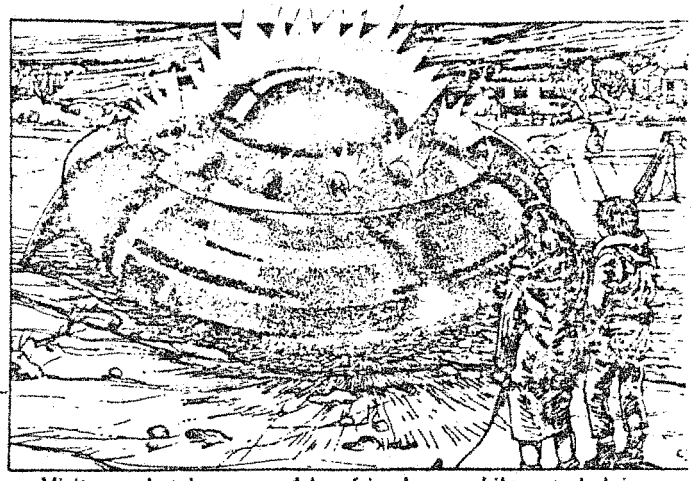
Yours in anticipation

Section 40 [redacted]

SUNDAY 24 MAY 1987

File 12/3 (1 of 2 PAGES) (E45)

THE UFO MYSTERY



Visitor—what Lynsey and her friend saw while out sledging

From: A Mathewson, Defence Secretariat 8

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE Room 7230
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB
Telephone 01-218-2638 (Direct Dialling)
01-218 9000 (Switchboard)

Miss J Randles
9 Crosfield Road
Somerville
WALLASEY
Wirral

Your reference

Our reference
D/DS8/10/209

Date
24 April 1984

Dear Miss Randles,

Thank you for your letter of 12 March. Since Mrs Titchmarsh, my predecessor here, last wrote to you it has been decided not to publish the reports of alleged UFO sightings we receive. As you may know, we receive hundreds of these reports each year and to prepare them for publication would involve a great deal of editorial work, for which we have neither the money nor the staff. This would, in any case, fall outside our defence responsibilities. It is also not possible for you to be allowed privileged access to these reports. Although they contain no classified papers they are, like all Ministry of Defence files, subject to the Public Records Act. Under this Act official files are, in general, to remain closed for 30 years after the last action has been taken on them.



Support — Lord Hill-Norton

THE Sunday Mirror last week revealed astonishing evidence that Whitehall has been keeping UFO sightings secret from the British public.

Today we look at how this cover-up extended to investigations into a remarkable incident at a Suffolk airbase. An incident witnessed by senior military men. We examine this mystery, and below give case histories of other "close encounters" reported in Jenny Randles' book The UFO Conspiracy.



Jenny—"The truth is being hidden."

By CHRIS MOORE

A WEIRD, unearthly light in the forest puzzled the security patrol at a Suffolk air base.

Three men went to investigate — and came face to face with what they are convinced was a UFO.

There, in a clearing, they found a brightly-lit object the size of a small car, apparently hovering just above the ground.

Baffled, the three patrolmen approached the strange craft and one, John Burroughs, tried to touch it.

Later, he was dragged from the forest in a state of shock.

Just what happened that night in December, 1980, in Rendlesham Forest has never been satisfactorily explained by the Ministry of Defence.

Author Jenny Randles claims this is part of a massive cover-up of UFO sightings in Britain.

In 1982, the MoD announced it was going to release the thousands of UFO reports collected over the last 25 years.

But 18 months later, the decision was suddenly reversed.

The Ministry wrote to Jenny Randles claiming it now had "neither the money nor the staff" to publish the reports.

At first, the MoD re-

Encounter with real-life terror

MILLIONS of moviegoers thrilled to an alien landing in Steven Spielberg's Close Encounters of the Third Kind. They thought it was great science fiction. It was really very close to being science fact.

Nothing was closer to the truth than the sequence where car engines cut out in the path of a UFO.

Jenny Randles claims there have been 1,000 UFO-related car breakdowns around the world during the past 30 years, including 60 in Britain.

One night, in Leveland, Texas, in 1957 Pedro Saucedo was driving his truck into town. Suddenly there was a flash, an object hurtled through the sky and his lights and engine died.

But once the torpedo-shaped object streaked away the engine re-started.

More reports flooded in to the police and as usual, the cover-up machinery went into action. An investigator from the Pentagon was soon on the scene, interviewing witnesses.

He decided the witnesses had only seen "streak lightning".

of silence — What the Ministry of Defence told author Jenny Randles

fused to admit that anything unusual happened at RAF Woodbridge near Ipswich in 1980.

That was in spite of the fact that DOZENS of US airmen stationed at the base reported seeing the mystery craft that night.

Lieut-Colonel Charles I. Halt, the Deputy Commander at neighbouring RAF Bentwaters—another American base—spotted a red sun-like object through the trees.

And USAF Wing Commander Gordon Williams even claimed he had seen alien beings alongside the craft—small, large-eyed creatures, suspended in rays of light.

ON the following day, the site where the object had been first seen was inspected thoroughly.

Three depressions were found in the soil—and, according to Colonel Halt's report to the US Air Force Department, these were radioactive.

The MoD would never have publicly acknowledged the incident but for America's Freedom of Information Act.

Under this legislation, Colonel Halt's memo was eventually released

Reluctantly the MoD was forced to admit they had seen a copy at the time, but still they refused to comment. It was only when the story reached the British Press they were stung into action.

Every effort was made to [illegible] The flashing lights in the forest were hastily explained as beams from the Orford Ness lighthouse five miles away.

This would mean that dozens of US servicemen at the two bases had been reduced to panic by something they saw every night.

The mysterious depressions in the forest were rabbit holes. No explanation was offered on how Suffolk rabbits had suddenly become radioactive.

IT seems inconceivable that the MoD received a memo from a high-ranking USAF officer—a memo listing himself among the witnesses—yet decided no action was needed.

They could hardly have believed Colonel Halt had involved himself in a monstrous hoax.

How could they have turned their backs on tapes from radar stations tracking the arrival and departure of the unidentified intruder?

It is impossible to believe that no investigation took place.

The memo from Colo- [illegible] made. Any investigation *must* have produced conclusions. What are they?

For there is no doubt that the MoD DOES probe UFO sightings.

Housewife Lynsey Kent remembers being questioned by a Ministry intelligence officer after she and a friend saw a strange, egg-like object near her home when she was 10 years old.

"We were out sledging when this object suddenly landed ahead of us," said Lynsey, 22, of Bolton-Le-Sands, Lancashire.

"We went to have a closer look and it took off."

Jenny Randles, author of The UFO Conspiracy, says: "The truth about UFOs is being hidden —for whatever reason.

"It may be that UFOs are alien devices and the powers that be see no way to cope.

"Bluff and bluster might seem a good response when faced with a magical technology."

Jenny's call for an end to the cover-up has been backed by Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill Norton.

Following a House of Lords debate on UFOs in 1982, the former Chief of the Defence Staff called on the Government to come clean with the public.

By this time, thanks to the US Freedom of Information Act, he was aware of UFO research by the CIA and FBI.

"What we want is for our own Government to tell us the results of an investigation which simply *must* have happened here too," he says.

But the Government steadfastly refuses to do so. The MoD continues to pretend that no such investigation has ever taken place.

"There is no unit within the Ministry of Defence for the study of UFOs," is the Ministry's standard reply.

Have you seen a UFO?

Write to: UFOs, Room 313, Sunday Mirror, Holborn Circus, London EC1P 1DQ.

Aliens in silver suits

IN July 1947, a young RAF officer serving in the United States was driving across the mid-west. He switched on the radio and heard excited newsreaders telling the story of a spaceship crashing in New Mexico.

That RAF officer was Hughie Green, later to find TV fame. He was transfixed by news of the alien landing and waited eagerly for each bulletin.

Yet when he arrived at his destination the story had disappeared from the headlines. Already the authorities were throwing up a wall of secrecy around the incident. The wreckage, they said, was a "weather balloon".

But the man who discovered the debris talked of a shiny disc about 30 feet wide. He claimed that nearby were bodies wearing silvery suits. They were only three feet tall.

Adapted from The UFO Conspiracy by Jenny Randles (Blandford Press, £10.95)

When the flying saucer took off

THE skies over Washington State on America's western seaboard were crystal clear.

It was June 24, 1947, the day a new phrase joined the English language —Flying Saucers.

Kenneth Arnold was 32, a successful businessman and a skilled private pilot.

A US Army-Air Force transport plane had gone down in the mountains. Arnold, heading home to Boise, Idaho, had detoured to join the hunt.

He never did find the missing aircraft. But he sighted no fewer than nine mysterious flying objects. Strung out in a long line, the flattened crescent-shaped discs, flew in strict formation like a flock of metallic geese.

"They skipped through the atmosphere in the same way you might cast a saucer across a pool of calm water," he reported.

The phrase stuck. Flying Saucers leapt straight into the headlines.

The Government wasn't convinced. Official US records list the Arnold incident as a "mirage."

Guest on a space ship

ALAN GODFREY, a police constable in West Yorkshire, was nearing the end of his shift and guided his patrol car around the outskirts of Todmorden.

Just after 5 am he saw lights ahead of him. "Too early for a bus," he thought. As he drew closer his eyes widened. The lights were coming from a dome-shaped object circled by windows. It hovered soundlessly, just above the road.

His car engine cut out, and as Godfrey stared in disbelief the UFO rose sharply and disappeared. In his report later, he found he could not account for 15 minutes of his shift.

When he submitted to hypnosis, he recalled being taken on board the craft where he encountered aliens with grey-white faces who spoke telepathically.

Godfrey was forbidden by the West Yorkshire police force to discuss these events of November 28, 1980.

12

INVESTIGATION into Whitehall's secret dossier

UFO COVER-UP

Ministry 'scared of panic'

DEFENCE chiefs have been accused of keeping secret startling evidence of UFO sightings.

Two new books contain astonishing allegations of a Whitehall cover-up.

And the claims have been supported by a former Chief of Staff at the Defence Ministry, Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton.

Jenny Randles, author of The UFO Conspiracy, said: "The ministry is frightened of telling the public the truth because they fear there will be panic.

"But I'm sure people would rather be told the facts than be deceived.

"We aren't talking about little green men jumping out of space ships.

Alarms

"We are talking about serious evidence which points towards a UFO phenomenon which must be investigated."

The ministry has locked away in its files, over 3,000 UFO reports, collected over the past 25 years.

In 1982, the MoD announced it was about to publish the reports, but 18 months later the decision was suddenly reversed.

The ministry claimed it was too busy and short of money.

Speaking at her home in Cheadle Heath, greater Manchester, Jenny said: "That is complete garbage.

"The fact is that they are onto a subject which alarms them."

By ANDREW EDWARDS and RICHARD BRECKER

A second book on the UFO mystery, Above Top Secret, by Timothy Good, has the official backing of Lord Hill-Norton — he has written the book's foreword.

Among the book's mass of evidence is the puzzling story of three people interviewed about UFO sightings by men claiming to be intelligence officers from the MoD.

Timothy said: "They were told they had seen UFOs and ordered not to speak to the press.

"Now the MoD denies anyone ever went to see them."

Senior Whitehall spokesman Mike Stewart denied any cover-up. "The sole interest of the MoD in UFO reports is whether they are of a defence interest," he said.

"There is nothing sinister and there is nothing to hide. Quite simply the MoD has more important matters to deal with."



Lord Hill-Norton

Chief kept in the dark

AS Chief of Staff between 1971-73, Lord Hill-Norton held the defence of the nation in his hands.

Yet even he did not have access to Britain's UFO secrets.

"Without a shadow of a doubt British Governments have quite deliberately concealed information about UFOs," he said.

Lord Hill-Norton, added: "We're talking about reports from people whose evidence on any other subject would be accepted without question."

Saturday, Ma[illegible] 15, 19[illegible]

EVENING NEWS

File 12/3 (E4-3) (1 of 2 pages)

Come in ET . . . we are waiting

'Attitudes to UFOs are now changing. Non-believers are a minority. The government admits nothing is impossible . . .'

By JOHN EVANS

EXTRA TERRESTRIALS are watching over us – and they are friendly. That is the conviction of Richard Lawrence, the 33 year-old Londoner sitting at the end of the country's first UFO hotline.

He set up the service, run from an office in the Fulham Road, because "one in seven people in this country have experienced sightings and we want them to feel they can talk about it without fear of ridicule." So far there have been 300 calls.

One concerned a manifestation over Wimbledon. Two witnesses, calling independently of each other, described a triangular-shaped craft, blue in colour and as big as a London bus. They calculated its height at 1,500ft. Motionless, it remained visible for 30 seconds, then vanished.

"Some UFOs can be explained away," Richard, a graduate of Hull University, reasons, "but fact that this one dematerialised means it cannot have been of terrestrial origin.

"Meteorities don't stop in mid-air. Satellites stick to fixed routes. Ball lightning hardly ever happens. Attitudes towards UFOs are changing.

"Even the British Government admits nothing is impossible. The fact that something sounds unbelievable doesn't mean it cannot happen. If that was so, we wouldn't have electricity.

"There is something extremely arrogant about the assumption that the only sentient life in the universe is to be found on this planet; that it must be carbon-based; that it must be humanoid.

"It is this kind of egocentricity that forced Galileo to recant. He was left friendless an ill. Yet all he had said was that we are not at the centre of the universe, and he was right.

"Was the Star of Bethlehem really a star? It couldn't have been, to do what it did. We have to expand our thinking."

To this end, there is to be a London Symposium On UFOs at the Royal Westminster Hotel on June 6 when the issues to be debated will include:

- What is a Flying Saucer?
- Where do they come from?
- When, if ever, will they land openly amongst us?
- How long have they been coming to Earth?

The Aetherius Society, who are staging it, declare: "Recent opinion polls in Great Britain and the USA show that non-believers in extra-terrestrial life are now in the minority."

The Society also asserts that "official bodies throughout the world have fallen short of all expectations in coping with this vitally important and exciting subject over the years."

Richard Lawrence is among the believers who suspect the British Ministry of Defence being party to a global cover-up also involving the Russians and the Americans.

"Andrei Gromyko once dismissed a reporting sighting by declaring that the report must have come from an Olympic Games thrower who failed to appreciate his own strength," Richard recounts. "The Russians are less certain now."

It was in Czarist Russia on June 30, 1908, that one of the most devastating mysteries of all time occurred.

On that day, in the Tunguska region of Siberia, hundreds of square miles of forest were obliterated when, according to witnesses, a bright, pipe-shaped object exploded in the sky.

The detonation was heard 200 miles away. Tremors were experienced on distant continents and the night sky glowed so brightly over London that people could see well enough to read their papers.

Had planet Earth collided with a black hole? Or was the fiery object a doomed alien spacecraft? An answer has yet to be provided.

The reticence of our own Ministry of Defence, meanwhile, continues to exasperate believers in this country. The Ministry is said to have accumulated an enormous volume of UFO evidence over the past 40 years, but declines to release it.

There are even suggestions that some of it may have been wilfully destroyed.

One of the UFO hotline callers, hotelier Kenneth Small of Torcross, South Devon, told of what happened when he was in the RAF and based at Tangmere in Sussex.

Meteor Mark IVs claimed to have been approached by "a slightly saucer-shaped object which veered off, came back and vanished."

It was Kenneth Small, an orderly in the CO's office, who typed out their evidence. One copy was sent to Fighter Command. Later, Small says, he was instructed to burn his copy in the metal bin in the office.

That was in the 1950s, a period famous for UFO activity – and official scepticism.

"Evidence from the Fifties should have been available under the Thirty Years Rule by now," Richard Lawrence says, "but the MoD say they lack the staff and the resources to release it.

"The Americans are much more open. The Federal Aviation Office has just released 300 pages of data concerning a sighting over Alaska last November.

"A Japanese airline pilot with 27 years experience and two of his crew saw two objects the size of tankers alongside their craft. The objects were tracked on radar. USAAF jets were scrambled. The plane had to alter course.

"I paid 200 dollars for a copy of this report. There is no suggestion of drugs, alcohol or hallucinations. The three men are still flying. There is even evidence that American jets have fired at UFOs."

As long ago as 1968, on the eve of the Apollo moonshot programme, the physics department of the American airforce publicly acknowledged the feasibility of visitations from other worlds.

The department noted "the UFO phenomenon appears to have been global in nature for almost 50,000 years," and that "the majority of known witnesses have been reliable people."

Its report concluded: "This leaves us with the unpleasant possibility of alien visitors to our planet, or at least of alien controlled UFOs."

In a remarkable, but little known ordinance drafted by the Pentagon in 1982 and announced in Washington by Dr Brian Clifford, Us citizens were advised that contact with extra terrestrials or their vehicles was "strictly illegal."

A civilian found guilty of such contact faces one year in prison and a fine of 5,000 dollars. A serviceman would be locked up for two years and fined twice as much. The USA, clearly, expects the aliens to be hostile.

Richard Lawrence and other believers insist they are wrong to do so. "If they were hostile, we'd know about it," he says. "With their superior technology they would have destroyed us by now. They would have landed.

"They haven't landed, in our opinion, because they don't want to induce panic and fear. Nor will they land in a climate in which their very existence will be denied.

"The aliens aren't imperialists.

Cont. 19

... Cont

We cannot come to conclusions about them by our standards."

But if and when they land, will it be in saucers? Richard Lawrence winces at the word. It is, he says, so mundane. It doesn't do the issue justice.

"I prefer the sanscrit word – *Vimana* – which mean flying celestial chariot," he says. "Only Westerners call them flying saucers. The Tibetans call them pearls in the sky."

- AETHERIUS: One who travels in the ethers of space.
- UFO HOTLINE: (01) 731-1094. The line is manned daily from 10am until 10pm.

THE GUARDIAN

Why CND went public with its phone-tapping evidence

Sir, — Your report (May 13) on the new evidence about MI5 phone-tapping omits the two main reasons why we in CND considered it important that this evidence should become public, and therefore passed it to Dale Campbell-Savours, MP.

The first is that the procedure by which MI5 provides the Home Secretary with information on which he decides to issue a warrant to tap someone's telephone is one which makes it all too easy for MI5 to select and filter the information that the minister gets, and thus to abuse its powers for political purposes.

The second is that, as the Guardian reported on May 8, an MI5 officer who was in charge of the section which allegedly organised the smear campaign against politicians in the 1970s and which was involved in tapping CND phones in 1983 — the year of the last election — has now been re-engaged as an adviser in this election year.

Our concern is that the 1983 tapping of CND telephones, which was unjustifiable because it was outside the Government's own guidelines for the issue of telephone intercept warrants, may now be resumed or increased.

The evidence which we have lodged with Parliament adds weight to the already substantial case for an inquiry into the activites of the security services. — Yours faithfully,

Paul Johns.
CND,
London N1.

Sir,—it is indeed true, as Harry D. Watson says (Letters, May 14) that not all the people who learned Russian during National Service in the 1950s were sent to university, as suggested in your original report about the aborted BBC documentary programme.

Many of us were sent from Russian to radio courses, and then posted to British military bases abroad in Germany, Austria, Cyprus, and Iraq — where we monitored Russian radio traffic as a part of the Signals Intelligence system. Hence, no doubt, the reaction of the Ministry of Defence to the programme.

It is also true, as Harry D. Watson says, that not all of us became intellectuals; but neither did we all go into British (or Russian) intelligence.

Two people who described their expriences in the Oxford undergraduate paper Isis in 1958, were imprisoned under the Official Secrets Act. And several others — including William Hetherington and myself — became active in the peace movement, partly as a result of our experiences during National Service and our observation of the intelligence world.

Nicolas Walter.
88 Islington High Street,
London N1.

Sir,—Although I am sorry that the Government's threat to prosecute the BBC under the Official Secrets Act (Guardian, May 12) will deprive us of an innocuous and pleasing memoir of the Joint Services School for Linguists — an institution for which its middle-aged alumni retain considerable affection — it is some consolation to see that the authorities have not lost their sure touch for the absurd.

I have fond memories of the occasion on which an officer called the members of my course together so that, because of certain new duties that he explained, we could sign the Official Secrets Act. I have long since forgotten any "secrets" he imparted to us, mainly I suspect because he revealed them with all the mystifying indirectness of a housemaster warning us of sex.

What I do remember is that our solemn initiation and subscription took place in a classroom full of electrical equipment and that, at the end of the proceedings, a technician in overalls crawled out from under one of the benches.

It was clear that he had been present throughout and that the officer was faced with a situation his training had not equipped him for: sacraments are, I suppose, irreversible and it must have seemed to him much as though, for reasons of mistaken identity, the wrong man had been made Pope.

What to do? The technician was removed under guard and, for all I know, may have had to be shot or made head of MI5.—Yours sincerely,

Michael Sheldon.
194 Earlham Road,
Norwich.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
22 MAY 1987
FILE 12/3

replied 13/6/87 127

Section 40

[redacted]

MAY 17th Section 40

Dear Sir/madam, Draft replying [illegible] 9 am 5 June [illegible] 3rd [illegible]

you yet again for the third time now, on the subject of UFO's.

In 1982 the MOD announced it was about to publish the UFO reports but 18 months later the decision was suddenly reversed. I believe fellow UFO investigators claim that the ministry has locked away in its files over 3,000 UFO reports, over the last 25 years.

According to an investigation made in the Sunday Mirror (above date) there is a UFO cover-up! Chief of staff between 1971-73 Lord Hill-Norton told the defence of the nation in this land

yet even this man did not have access to britans ufo secrets. he says and I quote:
"without a shadow of a doubt British governments have quite deliberately concealed information about ufo's."
could you add anything more to these statements further from senior whitehall spokesman mike strawart? and to inform us all about the ufo conspiracy? if it exists, and when will it end, allowing all people interested in ufo's (including those people who have actually seen one, and it has change their lives, not for the better) to know the truth, people would rather be told the facts, rather than keep

Sincerely.

I am sending a S.A.E. in the hope of receiving a reply from you but will look forward to one.

I am Sir/Madam your obedient servant

Section 40

[redacted]

reply sent 9/6/87

OK

type filed

Section 40

Section 40

Section 40

2. file 12/3 (E42)

17/5/87

Dear sir or madam

I am writing to you, not on defence. I am writing to you about the U.F.O phenomenum. I would like some questions answered. What do you think about the strange objects picked up in the atmosphere do you think these U.F.Os or just a plane or a flock of birds. Could you please send me some information on them. Just something simple to explain to me. And why are all the sightings saucer shaped. Do you think we will be in the contact with U.F.Os?

yours puzzled

Section 40

Age 12

TO

Section 40 [redacted]

M.O.D

reply sent 31/7/87

(1)

Section 40 [redacted]

DEAR Section 40 [redacted]

Firstly let me start by giving you a brief outline as to why I am writing to you.

For some 10 years now I have been involved with some rather detailed research into certain aspects of U.F.O. RESEARCH. I have after this period of time collated a vast amount of both useful and interesting data and compiled numerous reports from all over the country and abroad. I also have established good liasons with a great many research organisations and a

Section 40

number of physics laboratories throughout the world. I have found that through my work over the years that there are still yet many things that cannot be explained by Science and are yet even now beyond the reach of human understanding. There are a great many theories as to the origin of the UFO phenomena - but yet I feel that our problem as UFO researchers lies within our Governments hands and that they posess some if not all of the answers to this particular enigma. If Something is classified and comes within the duristriction of our M.O.D. then the public are never

P.T.O.

aware of the hidden facts.
However occationally there are as I am sure you would agree times when LEAKS of classified information are some how exposed to the media.
Maybe certain members of our inquisative public have actually got an inside man working for a certain Branch of the M-O-D. It is therefore no supprise that classified information of a rather delicate nature falls into the hands of the media.
Anyway Mr [redacted] Section 40 to get to the point I would be most grateful if you could supply me with any information that the M-O-D pocess on the Subject of U-F-O's or

P-T-O-

anything appertaining to this phenomena and I appeal for this information under the FREEDOM OF INFORMATIONS ACT!

I realise that you may have a heavy workload at present but it won't be half as heavy as the pressure I can presently impose upon your department if I don't receive Satisfaction. The information I request is merely to ascertain the truth, which is of course to both our mutual benifits [redacted] Section 40 as you will soon discover.

I am no fool my dear Sir and nor indeed are my colleagues. I ask for no more and no less than facts.

PTO.

Section 40 [redacted] and as you are no doubt aware Money - (the raiite of all evil) - can speak a great many languages. I am sure that you would not like classifed high Security information falling into the wrong hands - So I would be most grateful for your kind Support with this matter.

A breach of National Security can often Lead to an International Incident and fortunately we are all patriots and believe in the defence of our wounderful country - I of course look forward in Sincere anticipation to your reply.

Yours Sincerely

Section 40 [redacted]

MEMORANDUM

MOD Form 4A

To SEC(AS) 2a
Room [redacted]
MB, MOD.

From DPF (RAF)
Room [redacted]
MB, MOD.

E41

Date 30. 4. 87.

Your ref (AHn. Mr [redacted])

Tel x'n. [redacted]

Our ref

Subject UFO's – letter from BUFORA.

reply sent 29/5/87

1. The attached letter was sent, I believe, to the Deputy Dir. PR (Army), [redacted] whose handwritten note is also attached.

2. I think this is, more properly, one for SEC(AS) to respond to as BUFORA is seeking a spokesman to state the MOD position.

3. The letter has not been acknowledged.

[redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
30 APR 1987
FILE 12/3.

DPF(RAF)

E40

Section 40 See AS wants this via yourselves!

Section 40 29/4.

DPF(A)

Section 40 (29/4)

DPF(A).

For some reason this has been sent to me. See letter attached.

Please look into it. I'm not keen on point sight off for an Army officer to get involved in a UFO group?

Perhaps you could speak to Cl Section 40 and advise.

See AS.

Section 40

DDPR(A)

E39

bufora

British UFO Research Association

Please reply to:

Director of Investigations

Section 40

10 March 1987

Dear Sir,

I am writing on behalf of the above association to request that you send a spokesperson to the following venue:-

THE LONDON BUSINESS SCHOOL, Lecture Theatre, Sussex Gardens, Outer Circle of Regents Park.

DATE:- Saturday 6 June 1987 Time:- 6.30 pm - 9. 30 pm approx.

We would be grateful if they would be ready to say a few words about the MoD position, regarding the matter in the enclosed leaflet.

In this particular instance I think the interests and positions of the MoD and BUFORA are likely to be very similar and we can see no disadvantage to yourselves if you assist us in this 'demystification'.

The leaflet makes clear that BUFORAs interest in this matter is to squelch widespread press promotion of the 'UFO theory', for which there has never been any evidence. Considerable new BUFORA research, jointly funded with meteorological research centres, has uncovered new data that opposes the UFO theory and supports a scientific answer. This meeting will launch our presentation of the data. It is anticipated that media attention will result. We, as a body, are determined to show the total lack of evidence for UFO involvement in these circles. We hope the MoD might be willing to assist us, if only by your presence.

MoD involvement in the meeting would be useful, because one of the theories other than UFOs which is locally popular around Hampshire concerns military experiments. Another concerns helicopter rotor damage. It would be very helpful for you to put this in its place, as we assume you agree with us that these are not the cause.

Perhaps Lt.Col. Section 40 (see pp 26 of our report) would attend at your request. He seems to have an interest and did attend a previous meeting organised with rather different motives by a local UFO group in 1985. BUFORA has tried very hard, by funding actual scientific research amongst 365 local farms in the area, and by promotion of 'Mystery of the Circles', to end these continued media stories.

Will you aid us in this objective? For once our differing views on the existance or nature of UFOs are not an issue.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

E38/1 - 38/2

ENCLOSURE TRANSFER / REMOVAL SLIP

ENCLOSURE REFERENCED D/DSc(Air)/61/4/1 DATED 29 April 1987

TITLE / SUBJECT UFO Computer Modelling

HAS BEEN:

A; REMOVED FOR USE BY _____

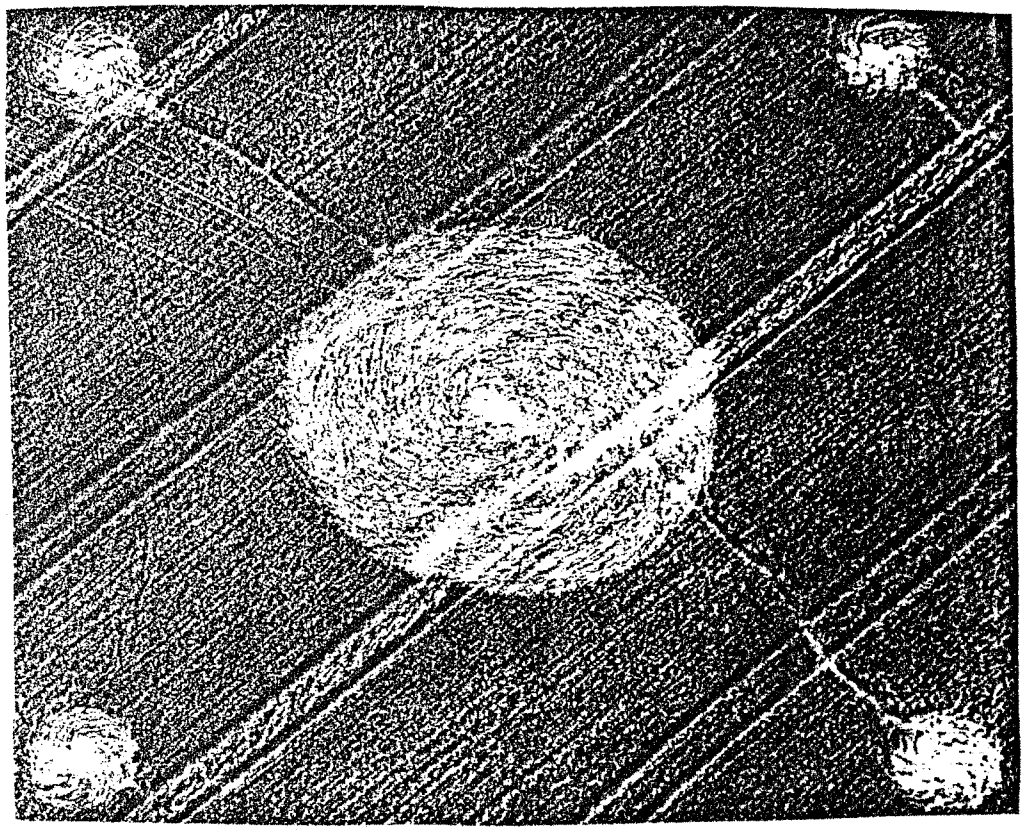
B; TRANSFERRED TO FILE No Sec(AS) 12/1 ENCL No E11 - 12

SIGNATURE OF PERSON ~~REMOVING~~ / TRANSFERRING Section 40

DATE 13 Aug 1987 RANK / GRADE AA

OTHER NOTES

MYSTERY OF THE CIRCLES



Cover original photograph of Five-Ring Set, Westbury, July 1983 ©Chris Wood

REPORT COMPILED BY: PAUL FULLER & JENNY RANDLES

ON BEHALF OF

bufora

1. A Historical Review of the Mystery Circles

The West Country mystery circles can trace their origin back at least as far as August 1980. There are some persistent local rumours that rings or circles of flattened crop appeared suddenly and inexplicably in oat, wheat and barley fields throughout Hampshire and Wiltshire up to forty years before that. However, 1980 marks the start of media attention, which has continued unabated ever since and, indeed, seems to have grown in intensity. When new circles are found between May and August every summer (as they have been for six successive years) the news often reaches national and international sources.

There is a simple reason why we, as representatives of the British UFO Research Association, are involved in the production of this report. The circles have turned up in fields close to or in the general vicinity of Warminster - a hive of UFO folklore in the mid sixties. This fact, beyond all others, has created a definite hype which sees these marks regarded as ground traces left by a landing, or hovering, spacecraft.

Naturally, this is an extreme suggestion. The main question we must ask immediately is whether it has any validity whatsoever. If not, then attendant questions will concern other possible solutions for this modern day enigma.

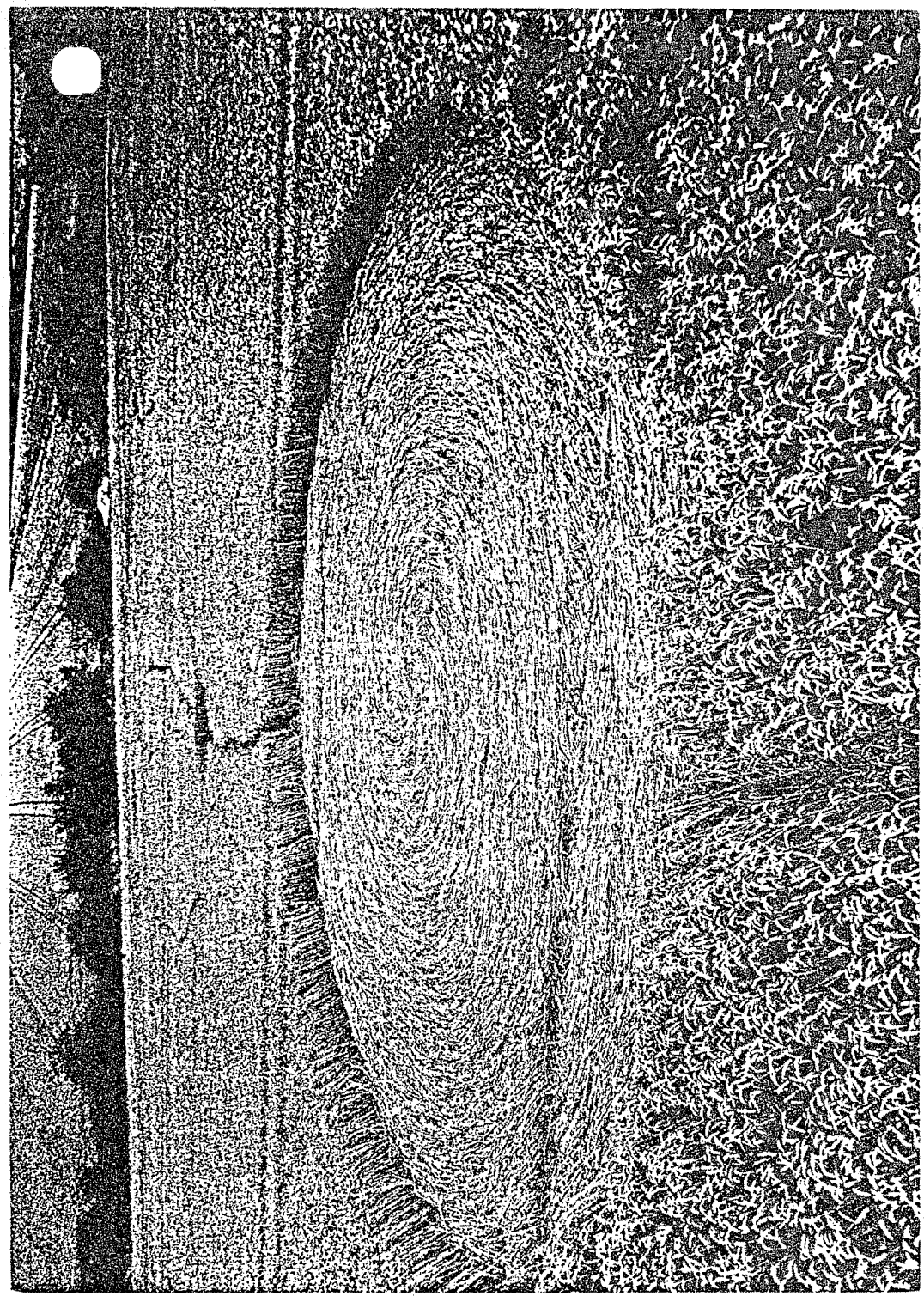
Sections 2 and 3 of this publication will deal with the surprising variety of explanations that have been proposed. Paul Fuller, as the regional investigations co-ordinator for BUFORA based in the centre of the zone of activity, will review these options and offer guidelines. But he will not endeavour to persuade you that any one idea is more valid than any other. The choice must be yours.

In conclusion, I will summarise the only truly scientific investigation of this phenomenon, the research of meteorologist - Dr Terence Meaden. He first became involved within days of the first 'sightings' in 1980. His careful, methodical work has been the subject of numerous pages in the scientific literature; although it has been widely ignored by the general public. With Dr Meaden's kind support and co-operation, I will attempt to explain in layman's terms precisely what he believes to be the resolution to this question.

However, it is impossible to discuss these circles without seeing them in historical context. The manner in which the first reports spawned others and the mystery then grew into a major source of intrigue and fascination has to be set out. Only then will you be equipped to judge the theories on their merits and make up your own mind about who (or what) is responsible.

The Wiltshire Times, 15 August 1980, seems to have been the first location to mention the affair. It reported how a farmer named John Scull had discovered two circles in his oat field beneath the famous Westbury White Horse hill - a very popular Wiltshire tourist attraction. Next day, a new Bristol UFO group NUFORA (shortly to be renamed PROBE) went to investigate. Ian Mrzyglod and Mike Seager interviewed the farmer, took measurements, and obtained samples of the affected crop.

It transpired that there had originally been three circles. The first had been discovered as early as the third week in May and had been obliterated when the field which contained it was harvested. Mr Scull had thought little of this until the next two materialised, both in an adjacent field but approximately 400 feet apart from one another. They did not appear at the same time. The first was found on the morning of 21st July 1980 and the second ten days later. They were only roughly similar in size (64.5 and 58.5 feet in diameter). Neither were perfect circles (Dr Meaden measured their eccentricities as 80 % and 93 % respectively). Samples of soil and flattened cereal were taken with the farmer's permission for analysis at Bristol University. No radiation was present, and no definable unusual chemical effects were detected.



UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE (UFO?)

1. On Monday 5 Aug 1985 Mr Adrian Liddell of WESTOVER FARM, GOODWORTH, CLATFORD who farms near the AAC Centre, Middle Wallop telephoned to report some extraordinary depressions in a field of near ripe wheat, and asked, "What on earth we (THE AAC) were up to now?" I took the Aircraft Accident Investigation Officer (AIFSO) Maj Garrow REME with me and went to inspect the scene.

2. The site, Grid Reference 346392 was a virgin, un-weather damaged, near ripe field of wheat. We found the following:

a. An exactly circular hole in the wheat in which the wheat had been laid flat in a clockwise twist 40 ft in diameter. (As if a plank had been put with one end at the centre and then swept round in a complete circle). There were one or two stalks of wheat standing which had sprung upright again. The wheat on the edge of the circle was completely upright and undamaged.

b. Four separate, smaller circles approx twelve feet in diameter, exactly similar to the larger one. These were set in a precise square, NORTH/SOUTH and EAST/WEST, with their centres 43 paces from the centre of the large circle.

c. There were absolutely no tracks in the wheat. To have set the holes in such a precise pattern manually would have required a tape measure or string, and the users would have been bound to leave tracks in the wheat.

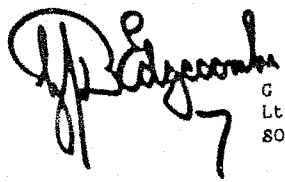
d. All but one of the holes touched onto the main furrows in the wheat, and could therefore be approached from the edge of the field without leaving tracks. However there was no way of moving from one to the other without leaving tracks in the wheat, except by going some 200 yards to the edge of the field, and then back down another main furrow. One of the smaller holes was completely isolated.

3. Maj Garrow took some polaroid photographs which are included with this report. Mr SCOTT, a semi professional photographer, took some 120mm colour photographs. I subsequently took Mr SCOTT and we photographed the scene from the air. By that time some half a dozen sight-seers were on the scene and a track, which had not been there when we were on the ground, had been made out to the isolated hole.

4. Present at the initial viewing were:

Lt Col G J B EDGECOMBE AFC AAC
Maj I Garrow REME
Mr & Mrs A Liddell (Farmer Westover Farm)
Mr E B Scott (Farmer Redrice Farm)
And two others

None of us could offer any reasonable explanation.



G J B EDGECOMBE
Lt Col
802 Avn Stds HQ DAAC

5 Aug 85

In his initial account (published by PROBE Report Vol 1 No 2 Sept 80) Ian Mrzyglod noted that "UFOs are not ruled out, (but) neither (are they) readily accepted as an easy answer." They were sufficiently interested to proceed with their investigation but recognised "further enquiries may establish their cause ... they may be explained away naturally."

There was some local media interest and the close geographical proximity between Westbury and Warminster was soon spotted. Sightings of "The Thing", as it had become called, were rife from 1964 onwards - and assorted lights turned the area (which also boasts the Stonehenge monument and massive army training grounds on Salisbury Plain) into a hippy tourist attraction during the 'flower power era'. UFOs were one of the 'in' subjects of the occult revival and Warminster regularly hosted skywatches on local hills (especially 'Cradle Hill' - which is a sort of UFOlogical time capsule with grafitti and historical mementos). It is no exaggeration to say that people came from all over the world just to see the place where UFOs appeared.

Local journalist Arthur Shuttlewood earned himself a small degree of fame and fortune by writing books about the latest sightings (with evocative titles such as "The Flying Saucerers"). UFO groups came and went, and a few local experts (such as Ken Rogers of the British UFO Society) tried hard to preserve the mystique when the bubble burst and the sightings faded.

And so - the media asked - was "The Thing" from Warminster about to make its proud return? Doubtless there were many local UFO spotters (not to mention tourist offices) who keenly hoped so.

Like all nine day wonders the 1980 story died. There were no UFO sightings. No more rings turned up. Ian Mrzyglod (having worked with Dr Meaden) ventured a natural explanation (which only the Wiltshire Times bothered to mention). That, it seemed likely, was that.

But then exactly one year later the saga blossomed again. Three more circles were discovered at Cheesefoot Head, near Winchester in Hampshire. They looked very similar to those at Westbury - with the exception that these three were all together in one straight line across a single field.

Ken Rogers of BUFOS was fast to the scene. He had promoted the 1980 circles in the short lived national news magazine "Now", claiming them to be created by a UFO. In the Southern Evening Echo, 26th August 1981, he insisted that the three-ring formation was further evidence. However, none of the 1980 or 1981 media attention induced anybody to report that they had actually seen any UFO that might personally have been responsible. A fact that doubtless saddened the ranks of both the press and UFO fanatics.

Meanwhile local farmers were more concerned about vandalism, which they believed to be the cause. One land owner Giles Rousell (Southern Evening Echo 28th August 1981) identified the circles as the downwash of a twin-rotor helicopter! An MoD spokesman (true to form) would neither confirm nor deny this, but hedged his bets by saying that an American Chinook (a huge transport craft) could have been involved.

At the same time Dr Meaden advised PROBE that the similarities between the 1981 rings and the ones a year before were very marked. Again they were not perfect circles. Again they spiralled clockwise from a point not quite at the centre. He was sure that his weather-based theory still held good. PROBE Report Vol 2 No 3 (December 1981) briefly discussed this and suggested that a watch be kept in July and August 1982, because if Meaden was right then more circles would probably turn up.

PROBE's stance on this was admirable, particularly in view of the apparent desire of the local media to foster the UFO theory. As a relatively young group they had an unprecedented opportunity to gain free publicity. But they shunned it. Indeed, they had to justify this to less cautious UFOlogists. In PROBE Report Vol 2 No 4 (March 1982) Ian Mrzyglod said ..."even to suggest that the flattened circles were UFO

landing nests is wildly speculative wishful thinking, without any foundation." No matter how many people would like to think that UFOs were responsible ... any beliefs are unsupported and cannot be considered of value at present." They continued to champion the meteorological solution and publish comments and evidential material (including photographs) supplied by Dr Meaden. It must be emphasised that he was not a member of PROBE, nor in any sense a UFO investigator.

Ian Mrzyglod had bravely predicted that 1982 would bring more summer circles. However, this time the press did not report any. Does this mean that they had failed to appear? It would seem not. A reader of the Orbis 'part-work' "The Unexplained" (being sold weekly in stages and building up into a sort of encyclopedia of the paranormal) found a circle by chance on 10th August 1982. Not knowing about the media attention in the West Country they thought it might be significant. Indeed it was, but for a very interesting reason.

When Ian Mrzyglod went to visit it he found a second one in an adjacent field. This was even larger than the one reported to the magazine's editor - being typical in size (about 60 feet diameter). Both these single circles were again eccentric, again spiralled clockwise and again in the lee of a hill jutting up from the generally flat terrain. However, this particular spot was Cley Hill - one of the most famous UFO skywatching points in Warminster itself! That the local media had missed this golden opportunity to push the UFO hype must have been very frustrating.

Following consultation with Dr Meaden, PROBE Report concluded (Vol 3 No 2 October 1982) "It is now time that the 'mystery' be dropped from (the circles) definition, as they are seasonal as Christmas and regular as clockwork." In an attempt to make sure that no UFO investigators would again regard the circles as UFO created, Ian Mrzyglod wrote a detailed article, with colour photos, which he published at the start of 1983 in "The Unexplained" (Issue No 121 - "As Round As Saucers"). Unfortunately, his efforts seem to have been largely wasted, as the summer of 1983 was to change the face of the entire affair.

No less than eight sets of circles turned up between May and August 1983. Some (eg at Cley Hill Warminster where they appeared in May) were not made public. Farmer Brian Hocken said that the 1982 circles had attracted so many sight seers that much of his crop had been damaged. He had no desire of a repetition, and fortunately (due to the lie of the land) the Cley Hill circles were almost invisible from the adjacent road and needed an expert eye from well up the hill slope to pick them out.

A set also appeared at Cheesefoot Head, scene of the three ring pattern in 1981. Indeed the location was almost exactly the same as two years earlier. According to Maurice Botting (manager of a nearby farm) the circles materialised overnight on Sunday 19th June 1983. A new location (Wantage in Oxfordshire) also sprouted rings (apparently on either the 15th or 16th July 1983).

However, most of the circles again focussed on the Westbury White Horse area. There were some flattened swathes of crop damage, a single circle and a major set all in one small area beneath the same hill - where of course the rings first came to attention in 1980.

However, the most dramatic thing about most of the 1983 circles (the main set at Westbury, plus those at Cley Hill, Cheesefoot Head and Wantage) is that they were all five ring formations! Previously the most spectacular had been the triple alignment at Cheesefoot Head in 1981, others had all been single rings. This new pattern was arranged with one large central circle (of the standard size - about 50-60 feet) and four 'satellites' on a compass point grouping around this. The satellites were roughly of the same size (about 15-20 feet), but not identical size even within the same set. The tradition of appearance and clockwise spiralling were maintained despite these radically enhanced features.

Naturally this wave of circles and their novel appearance woke up the local media. The Wiltshire Times (8th July 1983) announced that "Theories buzz over corn circles" and that "UFO believers" were advising

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to thank the following people for their help and support in the compilation of this report:-

Terry Chivers, Patrick Delgado, Lt Col Edgecombe, Omar Fowler, Dr Terence Meaden, Ian Mrzyglod, Chris Wood, and all at PROBE and SIGAP.

ADDRESSES

The British UFO Research Association:	30, Vermont Road, London, SE19 3SR
Flying Saucer Review:	FSR Publications Ltd, Snodland, Kent, ME6 5HJ
The Journal of Meteorology:	54 Frome Road, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, BA15 1LD
Northern UFO News:	8 Whitethroat Walk, Birchwood, Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 6PQ
Pegasus/SIGAP:	45 Burden Way, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 6RB
PROBE	Via BUFORA Address above

Readers wishing to discuss the contents of this report with the authors should write to the address for 'Northern UFO News'.

APPENDICES

Page 26: This is the written report submitted by Lt Col Edgecombe to the Ministry of Defence during August 1985 regarding the Goodworth Clatford set. Reproduced with his kind permission.

Page 27: This is the 1985 Goodworth Clatford circle set, photographed by 'Daily Express' photographer Chris Wood.

Printed by Emjay Reprographics, 17 Langbank Avenue, Rise Park, Nottingham NG5 5BU

5. CONCLUSIONS

Readers of this report may be surprised that we do not intend to offer a solution. As representatives of the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA) it might reasonably be expected that we would champion the popular interpretation - that the circles are caused by alien intervention, care of some form of UFO (most probably a spaceship). In truth, the evidence supporting such a contention is exceedingly weak and largely speculative. In our opinion it rates very low on the list of possible alternatives.

The purpose of this account has been quite simple. Appreciable media attention has been focused on these rings. The UFO myth has been persist -ent. Serious members of the UFO community, including the authors, have attempted to play down the importance of this phenomenon and offer rational explanations. However, these views do not always get across. To be blunt - mystery circles are news, explained ones are not.

Therefore, we have decided that it is our responsibility to set out the facts and summarise the many theories that have been proposed. We do not pretend that we have all the answers to the sometimes rather interesting questions that remain. Nor do we believe that the publication of this report will have much material effect on the promotion of this saga. If the solution is a natural one, as it may well be, then it is likely to continue unabated. If instead it is engineered at the hands of some human agency (as a prank or for somewhat deeper motives) then doubtless these efforts will eventually expend themselves.

Here we have given you all the principle evidence, such as it is. It ought to be sufficient for you to make up your own mind about what is (or is not) happening. As an organisation BUFORA will continue to monitor the situation, as this seems to be expected of us. However, we feel duty bound to point out that we do not rate these circles as a major priority, because their releveance to our work would appear to be minimal.

The British UFO Research Association is concerned with investigating bona-fide reports of unidentified phenomena within the atmosphere which are offered to us in a serious manner. Our primary role is to identify their cause, or, if this is not immediately possible, to document the facts so that others may attempt to do this in the future. If a phenomenon offers no real evidence that it falls within our sphere of interest, then we feel little reluctance to admit this publically.

On the basis of present evidence that forms an adequate expression of our judgement about these 'mystery circles'.

y they resembled "the landing pads of a giant flying saucer". A lot of ite daft theories were trotted out elsewhere in the press, including the mating habits of deers and hedgehogs (doing what was never clear!). But it was the UFO angle that was what the media believed the public wished to hear. So the Western Daily Press, 9th July 1983, told them to "Watch out! Martians are back!"

Somewhere along the line the national press decided that this was now a story or two. So the Daily Express informed the whole of Britain all about the Westbury circles on 11th July 1983. That morning was one of the busiest of my life. The phone never stopped ringing as every newspaper in Fleet Street called me (in my capacity as BUFORA's 'Director of Investigations') wanting to know had I heard about the "UFO landing". Patiently I explained the truth and that this was by no means a new phenomenon. My obvious lack of interest in speculating about giant spacecraft was met with varying degrees of incredulity from the reporters who talked to me.

Fortunately, Ian Mrzyglod had already told me about the new circles and that he and Dr Meaden had visited them two days before. Whilst they posed some interesting questions the meteorologist was still happy with his basic theory and that he noted how the summer was turning into one of the hotest and finest on record. This, he believed, may have helped explain the number of circles that were turning up everywhere. However, we all realised national media attention was bound to do two things.

Firstly, it would send people out looking for circles, and some would be found that otherwise would have been missed, or simply never been reported. Secondly, if there was anyone with the intention to hoax they would now have the best opportunity to get on with it. These things seemed bound to increase the number of circles over previous years.

In their original story the Daily Express had spoken of "the famous Warminster Triangle" - showing the desire to manufacture a mystery out of fragments, in truth there is no such thing. However, on 12th July 1983 the Express excelled themselves with two articles. A general review of the circles found (in 1983, of course, as this was still a 'hot' item, all previous years circles might as well have never been found). This told how the nation was holding its breath waiting for the aliens to land and show themselves. This quite silly remark was added to by Lord Clancarty (an outspoken supporter of spaceships) who made some comments about Ley Lines and told of 430 unexplained sightings he claimed to know in the area! BUFORA certainly has no such records, although there are a few good cases in the area (as at many other locations).

Fortunately, tucked away inside, the Daily Express did quote from their extensive interview with me. They allowed me to demystify the situation, explain why Warminster held its reputation and generally play down the whole thing. But most other sources (even the Express themselves elsewhere!) were doing their best to fan the flames of the story.

The Daily Star, 12th July 1983, were not so gracious. I told their reporter, Charles Langley, exactly what I had told Jeremy Gates of the Express. Langley virtually laughed at my ideas. So I sent him to Ian Mrzyglod and Terence Meaden for photographs to prove what I was saying and suggested he speak to the Met Office at Bracknell. He did. And with typical media arrogance the paper then announced "Star solves UFO riddle" - their solution being the same one that they had laughed at when I gave it to them the day earlier, and what PROBE and Dr Meaden had been promoting for three years!

Ken Rogers, not slow to realise the advantage for promoting his annual Warminster UFO Festival, advised the Western Daily Press 13th July 1983 "I am sure these circles mean something spectacular will happen this year" and later (Bristol Evening Post, 18th August 1983) warned that it meant there could be a rise in UFO sightings around Warminster during the August Bank Holiday weekend. The fact that his "skywatch festival" would be on at the same time was, of course, purely

coincidental. And there was no such spate of sightings.

Meanwhile, the Daily Express had sent their famous columnist Jean Rook to the site to come up with a lovely, poetic ode to "E.T." (the cudly alien whose film was all the rage at the time). She found physical evidence of his presence in the midst of one of the rings - a poppy.

As with most of these summer fiascos the media attention quickly died down. Serious UFO Investigators refused to get involved. Both ITV and BBC television attempted to get me to appear on air - and I had every reason to say yes as my paperback book "The Pennine UFO Mystery" was published that week on 13th July 1983. However, I flatly refused to be associated with the ridiculous slant that was being placed upon these circles and preferred to go elsewhere to promote my book.

This helped defuse the issue a little. But on August 6th 1983 members of PROBE took some visitors to Westbury to show them the five ring set and, to their astonishment, a mirror set of five more rings had now appeared right by the side of the first lot! Ten rings in one field was totally unprecedented. Yet no media source seemed to have picked up on this.

PROBE were now on the alert for the possibility of hoaxers. All the press attention must have been attractive and all these five ring patterns did look remarkably symmetrical and artificial. But one amazing discovery had just been made. When the national magazine "NOW" had reported the original Westbury ring in 1980 they had taken aerial photos of it. Careful inspection of these in 1983 showed PROBE and Dr Meaden that there are three small satellite rings at compass points around the big one. The fourth compass point ring is missing, but would lie precisely where a hedge runs between the two fields. So, if the five rings is a natural phenomenon this new evidence from the 1980 circles was directly in support of it. Clearly it cast a whole new light on the 'sudden' arrival of five ring patterns in 1983. They need not be artificial after all.

But what of the two sets of five rings at Westbury? By talking to people who had been at the site (including Dr Meaden) it was possible to show that the second set must have appeared on either Sunday or Monday the 17th or 18th July 1983. Another apparently significant clue was that the spiral of the second set was anti-clockwise - the only time this had occured. The clockwise rotation was consistent with the meteorological theory. This contrary motion seemed very odd. Did it suggest a hoax?

On 26th August 1983 The Wiltshire Times carried a picture of Francis Sheppard, son of Alan Sheppard, who owned the farm at Westbury where the original rings had appeared, and now this twin set of five was sited. Francis Sheppard was claiming that the circles could be hoaxes because he and his family had been able to duplicate one ring using a rope and chain. Only when PROBE followed this up did the incredible tale emerge. The Sheppards had not simply duplicated one circle. They had created the entire second set of five at Westbury!

In fact what had occured was this. The Daily Mirror, upset by being outdone by The Express, had paid the Sheppard family to let Alan and Francis (and some reporters from their paper) create the apparently mirrored set at Westbury. This was filmed using a stop motion camera. The entire process took under an hour from arrival to departure and only 24 minutes was spent creating the rings. So successfully did they replicate the ones which appeared 'naturally' they anticipated Fleet Street (most specifically The Express) to find them, report their arrival and continue the hype. Then, in could step The Daily Mirror and expose them.

Unfortunately, the subject had lost its appeal (for 1983 at least) and the media hoax was only ever reported by PROBE in their last issue before folding (PROBE Report Vol 4 No 2 October 1983). The episode certainly does show that hoaxing is a feasible solution to even the most complex circle pattern. But the Sheppards insist they were not responsible for any older circles (even the older ones on their land).

Meaden did note that one 1984 set appeared in flat terrain, so (presumably) hills were not essential to their formation, simply a catalyst. Perhaps, he speculated, we would have more reports from flat ground. But it is difficult to view them (except from the air) because the lack of elevation prevents a suitable vantage point.

Once we take the Meaden theory as a basis it becomes possible to search the records of UFO societies to see if we have any accounts that could be whirlwinds prior to 1980 or in places other than the south-east of England.

We do. A good first hand account from witness Alan Foster is recorded in Northern UFO News (March/April 1985, No 112 pp 8-9). He was at Rhyl railway station, North Wales, in late June (possibly early July) 1983. This was the time when many circles were forming in Hampshire. It was 5.30 pm, and he saw a "twisting funnel of rising debris, dust and litter". It remained absolutely stationary for about 10 seconds and then just vanished. Sadly the bottom of the whirlwind was masked by houses and he could not go to inspect it as his train was due. Probably a circle was not created in this terrain but it is easy to imagine the result had this been above a cornfield in Westbury or Warminster.

Another classic case happened at Apperley Dene in Northumbria at on 3rd July 1977. This was reported by me in my book "UFOs: A British Viewpoint" (R.Hale 1979) in more detail.

Here a family observed a funnel-like cloud, 'topped by a dark oval', rise from behind the rear of their garden. It then began to move horizontally with a sudden blast of wind and left debris behind it. Whilst the family assumed an oval UFO had taken off, leaving a spiral trail behind it, we have always worked in the belief that it had a meteorological solution, even if we did not know precisely what it was. Less cautious UFO researchers seemed more willing to be speculative (See for instance Alan West and David Jefferis in "Close Encounters: The Strange Truth About UFOs" Arrow Books (p52) (1979).

With the Meaden theory of whirlwind creation this case makes total sense. I discussed this with the meteorologist and he said (letter dated 17th August 1985) "This was a midge or black-fly swarm. They occur on certain summer days even in the absence of whirlwinds ... this case appears to have been coupled with a small whirlwind and makes a good story".

To cap it all, my mother observed a single circle in a cornfield near Scarborough, North Yorkshire on 18th July 1985, when she passed by on a coach. From her account it seems to have been identical to those which were appearing in Southern England with such regularity, although smaller.

Dr Meaden continues to watch the situation and hopes that somebody will eventually see a whirlwind in action. However, he is absolutely convinced that the circles affair is a mystery no longer. It is a meteorological phenomenon of scientific interest.

Whether he is right in his interpretation only time will tell. But one thing I am concerned about. This co-operation between UFO researchers and a previously quite disinterested meteorologist has been to the benefit of scientific advancement whereas the general attitude of the media and the extreme elements of the UFO fraternity has, if anything, had the opposite effect.

There must be a lesson in here somewhere, for scientists, the media and UFO investigators alike.

dark and structured). Perhaps it was quite a common phenomenon aft all.

Then came the summer of 1983, with its many circles and (seemingly) unprecedented quintuplet sets. Could the whirlwind theory stand up to this dramatic development?

Meaden tackled the question (J.MET. "Whirlwind spirals in cereal-fields: The quintuplet formations of 1983" May/June 1984 pages 137-146). He noted how in 1983 the summer was unusually good with "July proving to be the hottest in the 300 year record" and in conjunction it was a "bumper time for heat whirlwinds". Could these things be merely coincidental with the unusually high number of circle sets? At least five (probably six) of the eight known sets formed in the heat prone whirlwind month of July. Was this also a coincidence?

An important development was that Westbury (where most circles kept appearing) also showed indisputable evidence of cornfield damage by short-lived travelling whirlwinds that summer. So the fact that whirlwinds were forming in the areas where the circles appeared was now confirmed. He even quoted UFO fanatic Arthur Shuttlewood, describing his own beautiful observation of a whirlwind flattening a grass field at Warminster. Although he did not realise this was what he was observing of course!

Meaden was very excited by the 1983 patterns. He noted how they had utterly puzzled "even academics and scientists, unacquainted with the effects that natural vortexes can produce". Yet they did conform with the theoretical results of multi-funnelled whirlwinds which thus seemed "capable of performing unusual feats which have yet to be seen in action (at least by scientific witnesses)".

There had been reliable observations abroad of "whirlwinds with multiple vortices...some of the circles I have found (involve) several small vortices circulating around a main vortex." He refers readers to a report by J.Hullet and T.Hoffer ("Weather", Vol 26, 1971, pp 247-250) who saw and filmed a multi-vortex whirlwind in the lee of a hill at Reno, Nevada during September 1970.

So all that was required was for a fluid dynamics expert to calculate the patterns. The previously undiscovered multiple nature of the original 1980 Westbury rings further suggested that multiple sets might be the rule rather than the exception, and their absence in 1981 and 1982 was partly due to the smaller number of circles that were discovered.

By 1984 Meaden was sure enough of his theory to predict that even five ring sets might not be the optimum. Eight rings were quite feasible, but the last three might be less easy to detect. Locations of potential high activity were known, likely weather conditions could be spotted in advance during the key months and (it seemed) that evening was the most probable time of formation. The ground (having been heated during the day) would still be creating rising thermals, but colder air would be moving in as the sun went down. With this in mind a "saucer nest" watch at the main sites allowed them to pinpoint dates and approximate times of some circle formations. Although they failed in their (much harder) objective to observe a circle being produced.

Meaden described his work ("Advances in the understanding of whirlwind spiral patterns in cereal fields" J.MET. March 1985 pp 73-80). The weather conditions on the known dates of the circle sets they could pinpoint all confirmed the theory. Thermals were abundant in every case.

In addition several isolated single rings were discovered in places out of the zone of activity. And, most importantly, Melvyn Bell, from Wiltshire, described his first-hand observation of a whirlwind flattening a single circle in a wheatfield on Littleton Down during the previous summer. The whirlwind lasted seconds only, produced a spiral of debris and left a circle about 40 feet in diameter. Whilst this pattern was not one of those reported publically in 1983 all the features match the developing theory of Dr Meaden. It formed in late July, at dusk, "as the wind was changing" and in the lee of Great Cheverill Hill.

The extent of British attention in 1983 spread the news around the world. Two sensationalist American comic-style newspapers invented imaginary farmers and their alleged sightings of giant UFOs (eg Weekly World News 16th August 1983). When I lectured at a conference in Nevada in November that year I found that many UFO experts in the USA suspected all along that there was some substance to these wild claims about the circles. In fact, despite the 1983 fiasco (labelled by the Swindon Advertiser, rather aptly, as "Fraud of the Rings") not one single genuine UFO sighting came to light in or around any of the locations where the circles were found. Those who support the UFO solution should ponder that very carefully.

After such excesses what could 1984 provide? Ian Mrzyglod, partly due to the way he seemed to be banging his head against a brick wall of people who did not want to know the facts, had quit UFOlogy. So his temperate influence was lost. I was in hospital during July and August and missed the anticipated media furore. But Ken Phillips, who took over control of BUFORA investigations, was well briefed on what to expect.

Indeed, there was the usual furore. But it centred on Sussex. Most of the locations in Hampshire and Wiltshire produced circles and Dr Meaden (with some co-operating ex-PROBE members including Terry Chivers) visited all the sites several times a week between May and August. Sadly, they never saw a circle being formed. However, they were often able to pinpoint almost exactly when the patterns appeared.

A circle set of five again turned up at Cley Hill near Warminster between 15.00 and 22.00 GMT on the warm sunny day of 21st June 1984. A five pattern set also appeared at Cheesefoot Head (but about 3/4 mile from the site of previous years). This was dated to approximately 24th June 1984. And there was also one single circle at the original Westbury site. Dr Meaden interviewed local people and hang-glider pilots and showed that this was formed on the evening of 9th August 1984.

However, these old stalwarts received little press attention, whereas the newcomer - a five ring pattern near Alfriston in Sussex - did. It is believed that this appeared on the evening of 26th July 1984. West Country media had been very dismissive this year. On 16th July 1984 the Southern Evening Echo quoted one farmer denouncing the UFO theory as "a load of tripe". However, the Brighton Argus, 30th July 1984, were not used to the stew of explanations and proudly announced the arrival of the Alfriston rings. Quickly, BUFORA investigations co-ordinator in Sussex, scientist Philip Taylor from the Royal Greenwich Observatory, determined that this out of place set was probably a hoax. He pointed out that this circle set appeared at somewhere called "Cradle Hill" - and this was just too much of a coincidence in view of the importance of the identically named spot in Warminster UFO legends. "Expert solves the riddle of the rings" the Argus headlined.

Would this stop the rot? Of course not. Two days later, 4th August 1984, the Fleet Street paper The Daily Mail (replacing an oddly subdued Daily Express) carried photos of the rings taken by Shadow Foreign Secretary Dennis Healey - who lived in the area and is a well known amateur cameraman. "Healey's Comet" was their headline, and all the old nonsense about a "giant spaceship" and people being "totally baffled" was trotted out. The fact that Philip Taylor had already exposed a hoax, or that Ken Phillips for BUFORA had told them it was not of UFO interest, rated barely a mention.

Consider the lengths to which BUFORA had gone since 1980 to demystify the circles. Ian Mrzyglod, the chief debunker, was for most of this period a Council member of BUFORA. Philip Taylor, Ken Phillips and myself have all spoken repeatedly and openly to the press and never once done anything but dismissed the UFO relevance of the whole affair. Indeed we received considerable flak from other investigators for doing so. One man travelled 200 miles from Yorkshire to see the rings and wrote angrily to me following my July 1983 interview in the Daily Express. He demanded to know why I was speaking such nonsense and writing off the UFO potential of the subject.

So, you can possibly imagine our concern when the Ariadne Column in the prestiguous New Scientist, on 16th August 1984, openly accused BUFORA of fanning the flames of a silly season nonsense story by "reporting darkly" that there was no explanation. Nothing could be further from the truth. It is possible that the New Scientist were mixing up BUFORA with the still vociferous Ken Rogers and his Warminster UFO Society. But this New Scientist piece is a key reason why we have decided to publish this detailed account of the facts behind the fairy tale.

1984 was also significant for the discovery of rings outside Britain. Dr Meaden reported on a circle seen on 5th June by a woman at Vienne, France. It was closely similar to its British counterparts. This is a major clue as it illustrates the probable broad scale of this phenomenon. It simply receives more notice in the English West Country. Almost certainly it does not only appear there.

And so to 1985. In the Jan/Feb issue of Northern UFO News, where I was continuing Ian Mrzyglod's fight and reporting on the saga, I predicted that "it is fair to say that July 1985 will generate more circles, yet more hoaxes and yet more "it was a giant UFO" twaddle from the media". A few weeks later, during March 1985, ITV screened a networked 30 minute programme on UFOs in its "Daytime" series. I was supposed to debate the evidence with astronomer Dr John Mason. Unhappily, in the midst of the show (and without prior warning) a picture of one of the circles was flashed on the screen and the matter introduced. Dr Mason was clearly quite unfamiliar with the affair. I simply tried to show that there was no reason to suppose a UFO connection in view of there being not a single shred of evidence to support the premise. Daily Express photographer Chris Wood was present along with one of the families plagued by the rings. They still believed there was a mystery to be resolved, and after the show was over we had a frank debate in the Thames TV hospitality room. However, this national TV exposure again produced not a single claim of a UFO seen in connection with the rings. Yet again a sobering point.

Full details of the six sets of circles which appeared in 1985 are included later in this publication. But it remains remarkable how all the lessons of the past seem to get forgotten every June with the whole process of mystery and speculation beginning over again. The West Sussex Gazette, 4th July 1985, previewed the first 1985 set at a new location - near Patching, Sussex. The angry farm manager was convinced they were a hoax and claimed he could see the feet marks of the tricksters where they had tried (but failed) to keep to the tramlines that disected the wheat. He estimated that over £100 worth of damage had been done and the local police were said to be investigating. "UFO Hoax in Patching wheat field" was the quite explicit headline. However, next day the West Sussex Times was talking of the results obtained by a "psychic" at the site and a local "UFO watcher" reported how there had been some sightings in the area 20 years ago! As if this meant something.

On 17th July 1985 I was in London for a live radio debate on UFOs. After the programme I was summoned from the LBC studios to Fleet Street, where a Daily Express journalist asked me for my views on the circles. He had a massive file on the subject, but seemed quite unaware that his paper had published an interview with me just two years earlier! The Express were certainly of the belief that this was a story that was far from dead. I pointed out that none of the rings were perfect circles and the sizes varied, so how did the paper justify their opinion that a landed spaceship might be responsible? I was seriously advised that the UFO could have retractable legs which skidded on impact! Furthermore, some mist (which may well have been exactly that, as it was seen at dawn) had been reported at a set of rings on June 29th 1985. This, according to The Express, was possibly residual exhaust fumes from the just departed spaceship. A spaceship that had again avoided observation by the entire population of Southern England!

One thing to make immediately clear is that British whirlwinds are rally very short-lived, a few minutes at the maximum. Most do not survive for one minute. A stationary whirlwind caused in the way proposed would almost certainly have a lifetime of a few seconds only. Naturally, this much increases the likelihood that it would leave a clear cut circle beneath it and also that nobody would chance to see it happening.

You may already notice how several points in the circles story do seem to support this theory. The circles appear in the period of whirlwind activity (May to August). There were most in the very hot summer of 1983, when thermals were far more common. And the Westbury, Cley Hill and Cheesefoot Head circles (those which were first noticed and which return regularly) all occur at the base of a hill, suggesting that (for some reason) the conditions here might be excellent for the creation of a fair-weather stationary whirlwind.

Now regardless of whether this theory is correct or not it is indisputedly true that Dr Meaden made an excellent case for the solution to the original 1980 rings - and it would have been derelict in the responsibility of any serious UFO organisation (which both PROBE and BUFORA consider themselves to be) had we not listened and worked closely with the meteorologist. After all this was his professional field - and (with all due respect to UFO investigators and local journalists) it was not theirs.

Dr Meaden again reported on the 1981 rings ("Mystery spirals in a Hampshire corn-field" J.MET. Feb 1982 pp 45-49) and was quite happy that the three ring set was explicable. Whilst thought unusual it was not unheard of for stationary whirlwinds to form in triplets (with a central funnel and two mirrored smaller companions). And in 1981 this single three-ring set appeared to be a one-off (perhaps atypical) example.

Meanwhile, the scientist had naturally wondered (if his theory was correct) why the circles seemed to be such new events. Of course, the local rumours about earlier rings suggested that they might not be. Perhaps they had only just started to be noticed. Correspondence following his papers casts further light on the problem.

John Heighes wrote to discuss the events in August 1963 at a field in Charlton, Wiltshire. Here circles and swathe paths had appeared in cereal crop and been given a UFO interpretation. Several UFO magazines at the time carried the story and there was some media interest. But it never really took off in the way the latest hype has done. Theories at the time included the ones associated with the current mystery (eg hoaxes and helicopters) - and Heighes pointed out that he had personally witnessed a circle similar to those in the Hampshire hills created by the brief low down hover of a helicopter.

Steuart Campbell, a BUFORA investigator from Scotland, also wrote to Dr Meaden and advised caution since nobody had actually seen a whirlwind create a circle. He did believe in a natural explanation and pointed out the correspondence with some "saucer nests" (as they were termed) found in January 1966 at Tully, Australia. Witness, George Pedley, actually heard a sound ("like air escaping from a tyre") and observed a "spaceship" (a blue/grey disc that rose vertically out of the field). At the spot where it had departed a circle, thirty feet in diameter, was formed out of flattened reeds. Later other circles were discovered in the area. These rotated both clockwise and anticlockwise. (Note that January is the equivalent of July in the meteorology of the southern hemisphere).

These letters feature in Meaden's next paper ("Mystery spirals in cornfields" J.MET. Jan 1983 pp 11-19). He also reports on the relatively poor 1982 circles harvest. He exudes confidence that the circles are whirlwind induced and show up more in July/August when the crop is brittle and will show permanent damage at the time. All that is required is the right combination of weather, geology and crop to mark out the spiral effects. Even the Tully "spaceship" could well have been a whirlwind vortex (you may have seen tornados funnels and they do look

4. The Weather Theory

Dr Meaden is editor of the prestigious Journal of Meteorology (henceforth J.MET.) and in charge of the Tornado section of TORRO - a group of scientists collecting data on Tornado and Storm Research.

At first sight the possibility of tornado activity in Britain seems ridiculous. These ferocious funnels of wind which rotate at hundreds of miles an hour, can drive drinking straws straight through blocks of wood, kill people and wreck homes every year, are associated with anywhere but the weather systems of these mild and temperate lands. However, just because we do not get storms of the intensity found in places such as the American mid-west does not mean that they are unknown in this country.

In fact we tend to call these things 'whirlwinds', rather than tornados, to give them a more descriptive gentile feel. They certainly have damaged property as they twist across the countryside, and every summer (especially between May and August) a surprising number of them form. They are typically short lived and cover a small geographical area. But they do occur and there are some excellent photographs of them.

Dr Meaden immediately suspected all the cornfield circles might have been generated by whirlwinds, hence his visit to the first discovered site within hours of its report. His continued interest after six years demonstrates two things. He still believes that whirlwinds are at work. And he also regards the circles as of some scientific value.

His initial paper ("Mystery spirals in a Wiltshire cereal-field" J.MET. March 1981 pp 76-80) includes a full account of the 1980 Westbury rings (including Ian Mrzyglod's photographs). He writes "The stalks, although bent, appeared otherwise undamaged, as if the flattening had been caused by air pressure." He rightly concludes "As we know of no eye- witnesses who were present at the time that the phenomenon was occuring, it is necessary to interpret foregoing evidence as best we can." He does, and by fitting weather data to the scale drawings and measurements of rings suggests... "The most natural explanation which comes to mind is that the near-circular flattening of the oats was caused by whirlwinds."

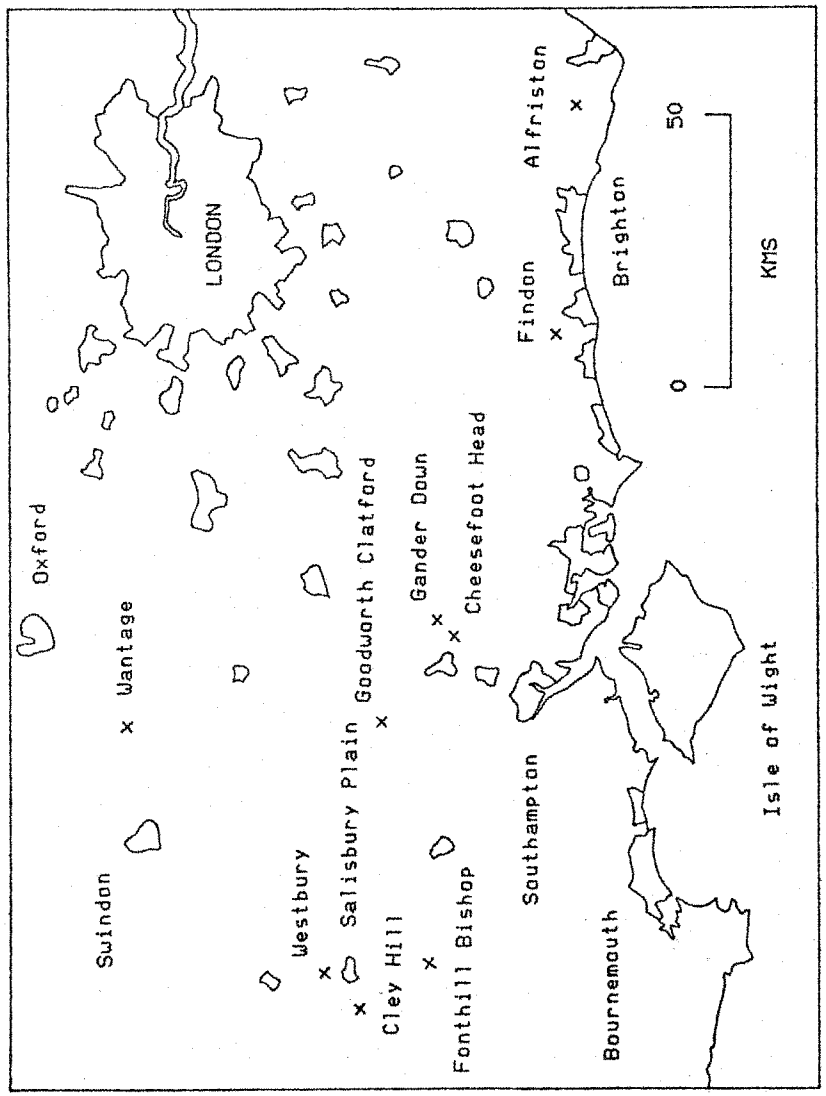
But hold on, the reader might ask. A whirlwind would tear through a field and devastate the crop, not produce a single ring in this neat and symmetrical manner. However, Dr Meaden was proposing a special kind of vortex - the "fair-weather stationary whirlwind". Not an invention of his, but an already known meteorological phenomenon. It is not common, but is believed to occur several times a year, especially in Southern England. He included a photograph of a fair-weather whirlwind in action, creating a spiral funnel of dust. This was not in a cereal field but was in full view of many witnesses (who are observing it in the shot). It occured on 10th July 1976, a hot day, at Woodside, Hertfordshire.

The way this kind of whirlwind forms is fairly simple. Warm air rises, cool air falls. This is the basis of all storm systems - including a tornado. Thermals (columns of warm air trapped in a location) are used by glider pilots and hovering birds (you can often see birds rising in the warm air currents above a motorway for instance). Now if a colder mass of air moves in and displaces this thermal it can set it in motion, giving it a spin if you like. The column then revolves in the typical whirlwind fashion. Normally this would then move off (like a spinning top) in a line. However, under some circumstances, it can stand still - especially if its passage forward is blocked (eg by a sudden rise of ground or hill).

Dr Meaden was especially interested in this last point. For it provides a theoretically novel meteorological phenomenon. What factors can prevent a whirlwind from moving and make it remain stationary?

Meanwhile, the local ITV news programme "Coast to Coast" had featured an item on the 1985 circles. This plus the Daily Express return to the fray prompted the ITN network news to carry a story on the rings in their bulletin. It now rated as a subject worth discussing alongside wars, race riots and natural disasters. Which seems to be just where we came in as far back as August 1980, leaving us to wonder if this 'mystery' will ever go away.

As long as people desire mysteries and the media needs stories it seems highly unlikely.



2. FACTS ABOUT THE MYSTERY CIRCLES

2.1 What are the Circles?

The mystery circle sets are flattened areas of cereal crops, usually consisting of a large central circle and either 2 or 4 smaller circles arranged geometrically around the central circle as on a dice. The outer circles are placed equidistant from eachother and are between 12 and 15 feet across; the central circle is much larger, between 45 and 60 feet in diameter, and the whole formation can be as large as 120 feet from corner to corner.

The crop itself is undamaged in any way, but laid flat in a swirled pattern about 1-1.5 inches above the ground surface. All recently reported circle formations in Britain consisted of clockwise swirls, the only known photographic example of an anti-clockwise swirl was due to the negative being reversed. The central point of the swirl is not always precisely at the centre of the circle. Many witnesses have closely examined the circle sets and found no evidence of damage to the stems or heads of the crop, no evidence of deposits such as chemicals on the crop and no suspicious marks or holes on the ground surface. Surrounding crop is similarly undamaged in any way, although there may be subsequent damage by the wind. Significantly the circles themselves are always accurately delineated, there is no gradation between the circle itself and the surrounding, untouched crop. In addition, no crop has ever been removed from the formations, nor any displaced crop found nearby.

The circle sets first attracted nationwide interest in 1980 when sets were discovered at the Westbury White Horse Hill in Wiltshire. Since then sets have appeared regularly during the summer months across Southern England, with increasing media hysteria about their origin. It may be a significant fact that the first circle sets only consisted of 3 circles whilst sets of 5 did not make their regular appearance until 1983.

During 1985, six sets of circles gained nationwide publicity in the press, TV and radio, these were at

Cley Hill, Longleat, Wiltshire on or before Sunday 16th June
White Horse, Bratton, Westbury almost certainly on Sunday 16th June
Tolymare Farm, Findon, Brighton definitely on Saturday 29th June
Gander Down, Alresford, Winchester definitely on Saturday 6th July
Fonthill Bishop, near the A303 probably on Saturday 20th July
Goodworth Clatford, Andover before Wednesday 31st July

The dates shown are not necessarily those on which the circles were formed, but are the dates on which the circles were first reported.

'Daily Express' photographer Chris Wood has made measurements of most known circle sets but is reluctant to publish accurate measurements since this might allow hoaxers to replicate current circle formations (if they aren't doing this already of course). However, he does point out that no two circle sets are ever precisely identical, and that the central circle is always slightly elliptical rather than a perfect circle.

It is a certainty that other circle sets appeared during 1985 but were not publicised, in particular, a former Paths and Bridleways Officer at Hampshire County Council knew of a set of rings near Cheriton Wood, Alresford which were not reported because the local landowners feared an invasion by the media. This is a real problem for the farmers as they lose over £200 worth of crop for each circle set in addition to the damage caused by interested sight seers invading their property. Consequently, whilst 1985 is generally believed to have produced more reports of the circles sets than any previous year, it cannot be assumed that the phenomenon is a growing problem.

tistical analysis of the circles might reveal a common locational
:or such as the geology of the sites. Unfortunately, the circle sites were mainly on chalk or alluvial deposits, so any stress would not be very great.

The 'Daily Express' (2.12.84) has reported a case in which a large block of earth measuring yards across had allegedly been removed en masse and displaced several yards away, presumably by earth forces. Is it possible that similar forces caused circle sets to appear under certain conditions?

Because these theories are very speculative, and because it is not clear what forces are involved, it seems very unlikely that circle sets can be explained in such terms. In addition, if natural forces can cause circle sets, why have they just started doing so, and why always on Friday or Saturday nights?

CHEMICAL WARFARE THEORY

It has been suggested that it might be necessary for the military to periodically test chemical warfare on ordinary crops, and that the circles were caused by a small amount of such a substance being dropped from above and spreading out. The substance would cause the stems to weaken, thereby falling over under their own weight. It is known that over-fertilisation of cereal crops can cause this effect, although this never occurs in such a regular pattern.

Apart from the clear dangers involved to the civilian population it seems clear that in the event of war there must be many more destructive weapons available for use than something which caused wheat crops to wilt under their own weight.

PARALLEL UNIVERSES THEORY

It has been suggested that the circle sets were the result of parallel universes interacting with eachother in the same way that 2 adjacent radio stations 'drift' in and out of frequency, such interaction may be observable by gravitational effects. This seems to be an incredible theory until we appreciate that many different energies and frequencies exist in our environment that we cannot directly sense (eg electromagnetic waves, ultrasonic sounds). Some hypothetical research by Dr Paul Davies does indicate the possibility that parallel universes may exist all around us, and only rarely come into direct contact with our reality. However, this doesn't explain why such interacting should take the form of such an unusual feature as a set of 5 circles of flattened wheat, usually at weekends, and always overnight across a specific part of England. Why has this effect only just started? And why are no other gravitational effects occuring in, for example, the centres of cities?

The 9 theories described are all defective in some way, few of them satisfactorily explain how the circles can be formed and few of them explain a reason for their appearance. It is important to realise that circle sets appear to be a long established phenomenon that is not solely confined to Britain. Would any hoax theory explain these characteristics? It may well be that some combination of theories can successfully deal with the circles phenomenon rather than relying on a single cause for their regular and provacative appearance.

Problems

1. About 90 % of UFO reports have very ordinary explanations, ranging from stars and aeroplanes, to weather balloons and satellites. All three of these reports are almost certainly explicable and may represent brightly lit aircraft or helicopters, the Simms report in particular may represent a misidentification of the planet Venus, which was particularly brilliant at the time.
2. The relatively few UFO reports for which no explanation can be found do not appear to be alien spacecraft and may well have natural identifications following further evaluation.
3. It may be that somebody on the fringe of the UFO movement is using the UFO/Circle myth to increase interest in their particular activities (skywatching, social club etc) or to sell their (wildly speculative) books.

LEY LINES

It was claimed that some of the circle sets lay on what was termed a 'Ley Line'. In 'Flying Saucer Review' (Vol 27 No 5 p14) three formations of 3 circles have been plotted on a sketch map and shown to lie approximately on a straight line (but NOT a 'Ley Line'). The Cley Hill and the Goodworth Clatford circle sets of 1985 lie on a line that misses Stonehenge by about 0.3 km. Could some ill-defined 'natural' force flow along these apparent lines and somehow cause the circle sets to appear?

Problems

1. Ley Line enthusiasts have not explained exactly forces are flowing along 'Ley Lines'. Even if they had, they have not shown that such forces exist or are connected with circle sites.
2. No device exists which can measure Ley Lines, they only exist as lines on a map.
3. It has been shown that some sites on so-called Ley Lines were first constructed at wildly different dates, making a causal link highly improbable.
4. The occurence of Ley Lines and Ley Points has been shown to occur with a relatively high frequency by generating a random series of grid references and then trying to connect them. The frequency of such Leys is increased by the inaccuracy of scale on the map.

OTHER FORCE FIELD THEORIES

It has been suggested that the circle sets are formed by some poorly understood 'natural' phenomena such as 'earthlights'. In "Piece for a Jigsaw", L.G.Cramp describes an experiment in which blades of grass responded to a strong electro-magnetic field . It has been suggested that this might account for the swirled pattern in the wheat.

Similarly, the existence of large amounts of stress in geologically active areas (such as in adjacent fault lines) is believed to cause piezo-electrical effects (See 'Earthlights' by Paul Devereux). Perhaps a

It is believed by several researchers that similar circle sets have en appearing throughout the world for many years, perhaps as long ago as the 1940s. They are well known amongst the older residents of Alresford, Hampshire as the 'Cheriton Rings'.

Mystery circle sets have been reported throughout the world. Hugh Cochrane, writing in 'Gateway to Oblivion', describes similar circle sets in Australia and Canada. 'The Unexplained' published a photograph of a circle set found in Switzerland. At one Queensland site, 200 tiny circles were allegedly found, each was about 18 inches across, but these circles were usually burnt and had been gouged into the earth. Following the Tully, Queensland report of an unidentified flying object rising out of a swamp and leaving behind a swirled area, the Australian press had dubbed their circles as 'Flying Saucer Nests'.

The 1985 circles have all been visited, photographed and measured by either Chris Wood, Pat Delgado or SIGAP. The circles often laid across tramlines left by the tractor at sowing, but some circles lay in isolated parts of the fields, making their nocturnal construction by any hoaxer that much more difficult.

Because of the inevitable media attention, it was difficult to obtain photographs of the sets before pressmen, land owners and interested local residents had walked across them. However, photographs have been taken very soon after the discovery of the sets and these photos show very inconclusive evidence of tampering. Eye witnesses report that they see no evidence of tracks that might be left by hoaxers, but aerial photographs do reveal vague traces of damage through surrounding crop. These may be caused by animals or by people measuring or inspecting the sets. Photographs taken above the Gander Down formation reveal a small track running through the south east to north east outer circles, possibly making use of the tram lines, but these tracks could not be seen from the ground. Not all circle sets displayed any conclusive tracks at all, certainly none exhibited tracks that were obvious to the first witnesses at the scene. This is particularly puzzling as it is quite impossible to walk through a field of near ripe wheat or barley without leaving large swathes of damage such as that left by sight seers at the 1983 Westbury site (see front cover).

All the well-publicised 1985 circle sets were discovered early in the morning, usually by local landowners, and most had not been present the previous day. The Tolymare Farm circle set was first discovered by local landowner Ken Johnson and his gamekeeper at about 5.50 am. Both men reported that they saw a 'hazy mist' rising up from the central circle in 'a series of fountains'. They made a search of the surrounding crop but could not find any suspicious markings, despite their familiarity with animal tracks. In this particular case nearby woodland was found to be damaged at the top of the canopy, but again this was hardly a conclusive discovery. Significantly, nothing had been seen or heard overnight by local residents even though they lived as near as 250 yards to the circle set.

2.2 The Circles' Characteristics

In general there are 13 characteristics of the circle sets that need to be explained, namely:

1. All appeared in mature cereal crops, oats, wheat or barley.
2. All appeared overnight during summer months.
3. There is a relatively high chance that all five of the six 1985 circle sets appeared over weekends, sets appearing in 1984 all appeared over Thursday/Friday nights.
4. All the well publicised circle sets since 1980 consisted of either 3 or 5 sharply defined circles geometrically laid out with a larger circle in the centre of the formation.

5. All were of similar but not identical dimensions, ie very large.
6. In each case the crop was not damaged or displaced.
7. In each case the crop was laid gently flat in a clockwise swirled pattern about 1-1.5 inches above the surface.
8. No deposits were found on the crop or the ground.
9. 5 of the 6 circle sets found in 1985 were clearly visible from natural vantage points as if they were meant to be seen, only the Goodworth Clatford circles were in a remote point (they were only discovered from an aeroplane by Busty Taylor of the Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena).
10. No local residents reported any unusual activity on the night the circles were formed.
11. No conclusive tracks were found in adjacent undamaged crop, although some tracks that may have been caused by animals or interested sight seers were later identified from aerial photos.
12. All 6 circles received unprecedented media coverage.
13. No reasonable explanation for the circles has been found.

2.3 Other Notes

It has been suggested that the reason why circle sets have only been found in cereal crops is because of the pliable structure of the stems. Circles formed in strong grass would disappear almost as soon as they were formed. This of course begs the question as to why circle sets have only appeared in cereal crops found in the south of England or in remote parts of Australia. Why is there such an uneven geographical distribution of circle sets?

It is interesting to note that most circles contained isolated stems that had sprung back up in the days following the circles' discovery. This indicates that the process by which the circles were formed cannot last very long.

The fact that most circle sets reported during 1985 were first reported over weekends suggests that the circles are formed by humans rather than by natural forces, however this may be because some circles appeared in isolated locations during the week but were not discovered until the following weekend. Landowners would be expected to notice any damage to their fields almost immediately, rather than the following Saturday or Sunday. Unfortunately, no one has been caught causing damage to fields in the same areas as the circle sets, even though landowners such as Commander Bruce (Gander Down set) are convinced the circles are caused by hoaxers.

During 1983 the '*Daily Mirror*' is known to have manufactured a hoax circle at Westbury in an attempt to fool the '*Daily Express*', whilst Philip Taylor's observation that the circle set found near Dennis Healey's house was suspiciously located at Cley Hill tends to support the view that all the circle sets may be hoaxes. The fact that some multiple circle sets have certainly been caused by hoaxers potentially casts considerable doubt about the authenticity of some of the smaller circle sets that have appeared over the past few years. However, the sheer size and precision of last year's circles begs a difficult question - If the Circles are Hoaxes, How are they Made?

The Army Air Corps Station at Middle Wallop was drawn into the Circle Mystery last summer by light hearted allegations by a Mr Liddell of Westover Farm that they had caused the circles by flying helicopters over the Goodworth Clatford site. Lt Col Edgecombe of the Aviation Standards Branch investigated the Goodworth Clatford circle set with Major Garrow of the REME, they found a typical circle set with a central circle measuring 40 feet across and the four outer circles measuring 12 feet across. Several circles lay across the tram lines but one circle was completely isolated on its own, with no tell-tale tracks leading out from the tram lines.

THE 'HIPPY' THEORY

'Daily Express' photographer Chris Wood has made an extensive study of the circles phenomenon, and as a result, he has tentatively suggested that the circles were a dropping zone for drugs. He points out that the Bratton circles appeared only 3 days before the notorious hippy convoy arrived on its way to the outlawed free pop festival at Stonehenge. Presumably the hippies would have sent out scouts to search for a camp, thus avoiding the considerable police presence in the area.

Problems

1. The circles were hardly inconspicuous, any aircraft dropping drugs into such an unusual feature would be bound to alert the police, who would have kept a constant watch on the Bratton hippy camp.
2. Even if drugs had been dropped into the fields at night, no damage was ever found to indicate such an operation, and no rumour ever surfaced to such a plan.
3. The theory fails to account for the other five circles sets reported in 1985 (and for nearly *all* the previous years circles) as hippy camps had not been found nearby.
4. The circles appeared just as the hippies were nearing the free pop festival, hardly the time to start trafficing drugs by air!

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Many media sources have continued to blame UFOs for the circles' appearance despite statements to the contrary by members of the British UFO Research Association. There is no theoretical justification for this belief since it is wrong to try and explain one inexplicable phenomena (the circles) with another (UFOs). Unfortunately, the media still believes that if UFOs are anything at all, they must be spacecraft from another world, visiting us as if we were some sort of intergalactic zoo! Consequently, as soon as the circles appear, the cry goes up 'It must be those UFOs again...'

To be fair, at least two circle sets in 1985 were accompanied by reports of UFOs. SIGAP received an interesting UFO report from a Mrs Joan Simms of Over Wallop, who claimed that she had observed a brilliantly lit UFO for 20 minutes early on the morning of August 7th (at least 7 days after the appearance of the Goodworth Clatford circle set). The UFO consisted of 5 lights in a dice-like formation, the outer lights repeatedly entered and left the central light. The witness claimed that

> 'the light was so bright that it burnt my eyes to watch it for too long.'

'*The Unknown*' (February 1986) describes a second report in the Stockbridge area from a Mr and Mrs Pat Collins. They described the UFO as 'a big funfair wheel hovering in the sky'. The outer rim of the object appeared to be a continuous ring of light whilst the brighter lights of the spokes were made up of many separate lights.

Three days before the Tolymare Farm circle set appeared, five witnesses claimed to have seen a pulsating yellow light in the same general area to where the circles later appeared. The UFO hovered for several minutes before shooting off at high speed.

3. Helicopters are very noisy and expensive machines, hardly the sort of vehicle to be used in such a hoax, and always likely to attract attention to themselves.
4. Finally, it was thought to be quite unrealistic to expect the helicopter pilot to suspend a device above the field to create the circles as the line would swing in the downwash and could not be made to rotate, causing the swirled pattern characteristic of all known circle sets.

OTHER MILITARY DEVICES

A more speculative theory suggests that the circles are caused by remotely piloted vehicles (RPVs) known as 'drones'. Some of these military devices are known to be odd shaped, very quiet and reputedly nearly invisible to radar detection. Their purpose is to undertake electronic and photographic surveillance of enemy bases and consequently they would be ideally suited to flying to a circle site on a pre-programmed flight plan, lower some device onto the crop, and then fly away without attracting attention to themselves.

Obviously technical information about such devices is not generally available, but it has been suggested that RPVs would be propelled by rotors and consequently their effects on the wheat would be identical to that of a helicopter. However, assuming that an RPV could be made to carry out the hoax, two firms exist in the South of England that manufacture them. Is it possible that either of these firms are merely testing their devices, demonstrating their technical superiority to possible buyers?

Alternatively, a large number of military establishments exist in the South of England, especially on Salisbury Plain, which may have such devices. Could the circles represent the annual culmination of a training programme by the military? It should be pointed out that several reports of unidentified flying objects in the South of England have been suspected RPVs (eg Sopley 1967, Lowtherville 1985).

Problems

1. Not enough is known about RPVs to determine their capabilities. Even if it could be shown that RPVs can be controlled with such accuracy, such a hoax would still run the risk of damage to an expensive and secret device. What gain would there be?
2. No one is likely to admit that they own an RPV, especially the Ministry of Defence, as they must be of great interest to other nations.
3. Carrying out tests under cover of darkness (with unlighted RPVs?) must present a clear risk to other air traffic as well as local residents.
4. This theory still doesn't account for <u>how</u> the circles are made, it simply presents a novel method for transporting the agent of the hoax to the location without being discovered and without leaving tell-tale marks in surrounding crop.

Because Middle Wallop had been implemented, Lt Col Edgecombe decided to submit a report about the Goodworth Clatford circle set to the Ministry of Defence. He was subsequently asked to submit photographs and negatives of the site. Pat Delgado later rang the Ministry of Defence to discover if they knew the cause of the circles, but he was told, rather unsatisfactorily, that they had not received reports of any other circle sets (perhaps they don't read the newspapers) and that in any case they would only be interested in the circles if (sic)

'...there was a belief that UK airspace had been breached...'

This ambiguous statement could be interpreted as meaning that the MoD knows who or what is causing the circles but that they will not share this information with the public. Alternatively, it might also indicate that they simply don't know or care, despite widespread interest in the subject. Significantly this statement does not clarify whose belief is important in deciding whether 'UK airspace had been breached', in other words, it appears that the MoD is simply avoiding the question altogether.

If this lack of official concern wasn't enough, there was a further development in the Goodworth Clatford circles. Busty Taylor of SIGAP reported that he had discovered an unusual greenish/white jelly-like substance in the central ring on August 11th (at least 11 days after the circles appearance). He had lived on farms for many years but did not recognise the substance as animal excreta.

SIGAP sent this substance to the University of Surrey and to the National Testing Laboratory, but these tests were inconclusive. The University of Surrey identified starch grains, calcium carbonate and a large number of bacteria in the sample, indicating to them that the sample was 'some kind of confectionary that had gone off'. They also noted a slight smell of honey.

NTL examined the jelly under infrared and ultraviolet light for bacteria and concluded that the sample contained

'normal soil flora eg. Bacillus SP & coliform organisms. No distinctive or unusual features were observed.'

More significantly, SIGAP also took a sample from within the circle sets and a control sample 100 yards from the circles. NTL found that neither sample emitted X Rays or Gamma Rays, both had similar pH values and both had similar nitrogen concentrations.

Regretfully, no one has apparently taken samples of the crop itself to discover whether it was contaminated or not. However, in view of the long delay between the circles' discovery and the subsequent appearance of the unusual sample, it must be said that any connection with the circle sets would be at best purely speculative.

3. THEORIES

The most popular theory - UFOs apart - is that all the circle sets are hoaxes. This seems obvious when we know that some sets have been proved to be hoaxes (see for example pages 6 and 7). Several different hoax theories have been proposed to explain the circle sets' precise geometry, lack of suspicious tracks and the reason for their appearance. Some interesting explanations have themselves been criticised because they fail to explain why anybody should go to the trouble of producing such unusual features when they never appear to gain in any way from their handiwork, and that their game has been going on now for several years, if not a good deal longer.

The following theories are just a selection of those discussed at an open meeting held in Alresford, Hampshire on 13th October 1985, which was attended on behalf of BUFORA by Paul Fuller. Among those present were members of the Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena (SIGAP), Lt Col Edgecombe (from the Army Air Corps, Middle Wallop) and Mr Pat Delgado, a retired design engineer who first reported the 1985 Gander Down formation to the Daily Express and local TV. Mr Delgado has been interested in the circles phenomenon for several years and has written several articles for 'Flying Saucer Review'(Vol 27 No 5, Vol 29 No 1 for example).

THE POLE AND CHAIN METHOD

It has been suggested by correspondents in the 'Salisbury Journal' that the circles were made in the following manner:-

The hoax is carried out by a team of 5 people under cover of darkness. The ringleader (sorry!) chooses the location for the central circle and using a stick or pole pushed into the ground, he attaches a chain or rod to this pivot, walks to the other end and proceeds to push or pull the chain or rod around the central pole, pushing down the wheat or barley as he goes. In addition to this task, he also has to stand at the centre of his circle and mark off his 4 co-conspirators (by using string perhaps) to ensure that the outer circles are both equidistant from his circle and equally spaced out around its rim. The 4 other conspirators form the outer circles in the same laborious way, with a pole and chain. No reasonable explanation has been proposed to explain how a single hoaxer could accurately position the outer circles at night without leaving evidence of his methodology.

It is believed that the 1983 Westbury hoax was created in this fashion, but this was carried out during broad daylight and left suspicious tracks and marks across the entire site. It is difficult to understand how a team of hoaxers could perpetuate a hoax in this way at night without leaving similar tracks.

Problems

1. None of the circles displayed the slightest sign of such an operation, in particular, as the hoaxer pulled the chain around his central circle he would inevitably leave scuff marks, broken stems and damaged heads throughout the outer portion of the circle. No hole was found in any circle set that suggested a pole and chain had been used.

2. It would be extremely difficult to throw lengths of string or rope to 4 other people 60 feet or more away in the dark without damaging the intervening crop. Again, no evidence of this was found at any of the circle sites.
3. The chain would not lay the crop gently flat. Pat Delgado has attempted to replicate the circles by trying to pull a 3 foot cane attached to a 20 lb spring balance through mature wheat. He subjected the cane to a linear (not sudden) pull an inch above the ground surface but discovered that the stems laid against their neighbours, building up resistance. By the time he had pulled the cane just one foot, the balance registered 20 lbs. For a 23 foot radius circle, this means that a hoaxer would require a horizontal force of 90 lbs to pull the cane through the crop.
4. An additional problem was caused by the stems leaning against eachother. Pat Delgado discovered that it was nearly impossible to pull the cane through the crop as the increasing strength of the crop forces the cane upwards. Consequently, any hoaxer would need to apply a vertical component of force to keep the cane horizontal and ensure that the crop was laid uniformly flat across the whole of the circle.
5. All the equipment required for this hoax would have to be carried into the field at night without leaving any evidence. How can a hoaxer carry a 23 foot chain through a crop at night without touching the crop?

HELICOPTER DAMAGE

In this theory, first proposed to explain the 1981 Cheesefoot Head circle set, helicopter pilots fly to the location at night without attracting attention to themselves. They manoeuvre the helicopter above the field and cause the circles individually by the downwash of their helicopter's rotors, the swirled effect is caused by the spiral motion of the downwash. It has been rumoured that somebody had seen and heard a helicopter approaching the Gander Down site on the night they were formed, and it is known that several military and commercial bodies exist in the Wessex Area that own helicopters that could be used in this way (RAF Odiham, the Army Air Station at Middle Wallop, 'Agricopters' at Chilbolton - only a couple of miles from the Gander Down and Cheesefoot Head formations).

Problems

Lt Col Edgecombe of the Army Air Station at Middle Wallop is professionally familiar with helicopter principles of flight and helicopter caused damage. He is certain that this theory is impossible because:-

1. Helicopters downwash is NOT spiral, spreads outwards on reaching the ground and fades progressively outwards. It cannot end abruptly and so produces a dish-like depression in the crop, obviously wind generated and totally different to the circle sets.
2. It is extremely difficult as well as dangerous to hover a helicopter without lights low over a precise spot in an open field at night. It would be impossible to do so, even with lights, over five symmetrically positioned spots without causing damage to the crop in the intervening space.

From: Section 40

E37
(1 OF 2 PAGES)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference

Date 15 April 1987

Section 40

Thank you for your letter in which you asked about UFO Groups or Clubs who may be able to help you with your school project.

I attach the addresses of five organisations which are involved in the study and reporting of 'UFO' sightings and I hope that they can give you the information you are looking for.

In addition to The Flying Saucer Review, I understand that 'Bufora' also periodically produces a journal listing recent reports and the results of their investigations into some sightings, and it might be useful for you to ask them for their latest issues.

Good luck.

Section 40

Flying Saucer Review
FSR Publications Ltd
Section 40 [redacted]

Ad Astra
Section 40 [redacted]

British UFO Research Association (Bufora)
Section 40 [redacted]

The British UFO Society
Section 40 [redacted]

Midlands UFO Network
Section 40 [redacted]

E36/1 - 36/2

ENCLOSURE TRANSFER / REMOVAL SLIP

ENCLOSURE REFERENCED _____ DATED 13 April

TITLE / SUBJECT Arial Phenomena

HAS BEEN:

A; REMOVED FOR USE BY _____

B; TRANSFERRED TO FILE No Sec(AS) 12/1 ENCL No E9 - 10

SIGNATURE OF PERSON ~~REMOVING~~ / TRANSFERRING Section 40

DATE 13 Aug 1987 RANK / GRADE AA

Section 40 [redacted] 10/4

E36

42



Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

Ministry of Defence,
RAF Main Bldg.,
Whitehall.
SW1

reply sent 15/4/87

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you in hope that you can give some help on where to find a UFO group/club as I would like to get some information off them for a school English project.

I contacted West Drayton and they suggested that I write to you.

Thank you.
From,

[redacted]

(Aged 14)

12/3



Section 40

[redacted]

From: Section 40 Secretariat (AS)2, Room Section 40

E35

(1 of 2 pages)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference D/Sec(AS)12/3

Date 7 April 1987

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter to the Ministry of Defence about UFOs. I have been asked to reply, and would like to apologise for the delay in so doing.

We are grateful to you for writing about your experience, although I should explain that whilst we do receive and co-ordinate some information about UFO sightings, the main concern of the Ministry of Defence is to determine whether or not Unidentified Flying Objects, as reported to us, present a threat to the security and defence of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they do, and this is not normally the case, no attempt is made by MOD to investigate or identify the objects. I'm sure you will appreciate that defence funds are fully committed to the continuing security of the UK, within the NATO Alliance, against, first and foremost aggression from Warsaw Pact countries. This being so we could not justify the use of defence funds on scientific investigations, unless a clear threat to the security of the UK had been identified.

Nonetheless it is clear from the reports that we receive that many strange things have been observed in the sky, although we believe that rational explanations could probably be found for most of them. Possibilities include satellite debris re-entering the earth's atmosphere, ball lightning, unusual cloud formations, meteorological balloons, aircraft lights, aircraft at unusual angles and a host of other rare conjunctions.

I am not sure however that this will be of much comfort to you in explaining your own experience and I am sorry that we cannot be more helpful. I quite appreciate that some sightings where rational explanations are not readily available can be very disturbing and I wonder whether you might like to write to one of the major UFO societies in the UK. Two addresses are given below.

The British UFO Society
Section 40
[redacted]

Midlands UFO Network
Section 40
[redacted]

I also enclose a photocopy of your original letter in case you would like to use this again. Otherwise I do hope that you and your mother recover from your rather bizarre experiences. But if you are having difficulties, please consider consulting a doctor. He may not be able to explain the incidents, but he might be able to help you to stop worrying about them.

Section 40
[redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

SAT 4th April

replied 21/7/87 (E34)

dear Sir/madam,

I am writing to you about the subject of UFOs.

I did write to you about 2 months ago but never got a reply. These objects continue to be seen by ordinary people. UFOs appear to be attracted to England's west country. The wiltshire town of warminster is the UFO sighting capital of the world. Since the mid-sixties there have been thousands of reports. The ministry of defence usually explain sightings away as planes reflecting. However later it is established by UFO investigators that no planes

were airborne at the time
In febrary last year the captain
of a VC10 carrying home
charles home from the U.S. saw
a glowing red object over the
Irish sea, four other aircraft
reported similar sightings.
When is the ministry going
to come clean about these
and other sightings? and if
they are, what in their
opinion are UFOs?, as many
of my chums who have
been one often ask me
this question, knowing the
ministry keep an eye on the
air defence. I would be very
interested on your views
about this subject I
am enclosing a S.A.E.
I look forward to

hearing from you.

I am Sir, your obdt servt

Section 40 [redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
- 9 APR 1987
FILE 12/3

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

E34
+1

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference D/Sec(AS)12/3

Date 29 March 1987

Section 40

Thank you for your telephone call last week when you told me about the strange noise you heard in the early hours of 14 and 15 March.

I have checked with the people here in MOD who are responsible for low flying aircraft and they have assured me that there was no military activity in your area on the nights in question. My only assumption therefore is that it could have been a civil aircraft and if you want to check you could try Gatwick airport who may be able to help you.

Perhaps I can explain here that the sole interest of the Ministry of Defence in reports of Unidentified Flying Objects is to establish whether they have any bearing on the defence of the country and unless we feel there are defence implications we do not attempt to identify reported sightings etc. The Department could not justify the expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond the pure defence interest.

I hope this is of some little help to you.

Section 40

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

E33

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference D/Sec(AS)12/3

Date 12 March 1987

Dear Section 40

At last I am able to give you some sort of reply to your enquiries but I am afraid that the news so far is not encouraging. Not only have I failed to unearth any record of gun-camera 'clips' relating to a UFO sighting in 1956, which does not really surprise me, but I have been unable to trace records of the other two sightings we spoke about.

I wonder if you would be good enough to drop me a line, or 'phone and leave a message, confirming your dates again please. I will then go through our files again.

I realise that you have a deadline to meet but now I have the files to hand it should not take long to check.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

From: Section 40 Sec(AS)2

E32

Section 40

27 February 1987

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 26 February in which you asked for a simple answer, yes or no, to your question on Rendlesham Forest. The answer is no.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Ministery Of Defence

Section 40

reply sent 27 February 87

Dear Section 40

I am enquring about the rendelsham forest incident again i would like for you to just give me a yes or no to the answer that i am just about to ask.

Was the incident in the forest in 1980 sumthing to do with the americans (TOP SECRET stealth craft which did make a landing at the american base at rendelsham forest).

I know that the new stealth has made an number of visits to britian from 1980-1983.

I know that the MOD know more about the incident than they are about to say. but i would like to know if the incident was just a cover up for the stealth craft .

I would be very gratefule if you could give me a answer to my letter as soon as possible.

YOUR'S SINCERELY.

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC(AS)2
-9 JAN 1991
FILE 12/3

(4 of 3 pages) (E30) Section 40

Please let me see your draft reply

Tel. Section 40 Home

" Business.

Section 40

reply sent 7 April 87

Dear Sir / Madam,

It has taken me a long time to decide to write to you. I am also quite convinced that after you have read this letter, you will probably throw it into the dustbin and have a good laugh at it - but I will go on anyway. I have tried so many times to put pen to paper and write in such a way that I will not be made to look a fool. I've thrown away so many letters that I have begun. This one is going, I've finally decided. Here goes. On my way back from Southport after visiting a sick Aunt My Mother and myself were heading towards Manchester. We both noticed a bright light. I will not go into great detail about what the light did. but the culmination was that our vehicle was slowed down by an odd looking black type M30 car that was in front of ours the driver was tall, stocky, and wearing a strange german type hat, even though his vehicle was dangerously close to ours not once did he show any movement or show any sign of involvement. My car was slowed down by this vehicle in front from 65 mph to almost a standstill. Both my Mother and I felt that something was very wrong and odd about the whole thing. I decided to open my window and look out. To my horror. Above my car was an unusually shaped craft of some kind, about 30 feet above us. The lights on this craft were huge and very dazzeling the size of the craft was roughly about the size of a double decker bus on its side. twice. The strangest thing though was that (Here comes the hard bit). We both felt as though time had stood still and it was very frightening indeed. We felt nothing, heard nothing smelled nothing. It was as though we were dead, or not there. I remember hitting my head on something, probably the window of the car and I screamed, and suddenly The car that was in front of us disappeared and so did this odd craft. We drove like crazy

to a petrol station and stopped. We didn't need petrol. We just wanted to get off the Road. The object wasn't in sight at first and then it was suddenly there again in full view. I must say it was a beautiful thing all lit up we did notice a sort of dome amidst the lights. But we were very scared indeed. My car was back to normal by now. whilst the object was above us all the lights on the car (my car) went haywire. and I could smell a sweet burning some sort of odd smell.

When I dropped my Mother off home and finally got home myself. My husband was distraught. He though we had, had an accident We left Southport at 7 o clock evening and I arrived home at 10. 30 . evening. The first thing my husband said was where is your coat you look freezing. It should have taken us just over an hour to get back from Southport to Manchester Just after I arrived home I had blue marks on both sides of my thighs and I was very very sick for a couple of days and also I had some terrible dreams which I would not like to go into on paper.

We worked it out that 55 minutes went missing on our time home and that dream that I had about an (~~alien~~ being) a being that was 6 feet tall, maybe taller. Blue eyes and white shoulder length hair who wore a one piece silver or white suit with no pockets or anything. He said in my dream, that he had seen me when I was thirteen years old and no matter where I go he would no where to find me, and if it was necessary he would find me. I am now thirty eight years of age. The incident I am writing about only happened a few years ago. I am frightened and I do definately believe that something is going to happen again. I can't talk to anyone about this because I don't think most people would believe me. But I swear to god it happened. Their is so much more involved that I could not put pen to paper and discuss.

Please I would be so grateful indeed if you could help me to solve or at least explain to me what happened on that Road. And why it happened to me and my Mum. I am a happily married woman who holds down

a small business I am told I am reliable, intelligent and trustworthy. I have read so much about UFO's since the sighting and I get the feeling that most people who have a visit from these crafts are either crazy or attention seekers. All I can do is speak for myself and my Mother. Believe me, I have had the chance of the story being plastered all over the newspapers. The Mirror tried to con me into selling the story as so did Womans World. But I did and do not want publicity. All I want to know is why they, the people on that craft, wanted or needed to contact me. I am totally confused. I understand that you have all your red tape and such to consider. I also expect you to reply to me in such a way that you will almost certainly make me out to be a fool. Well I'm not a fool and neither is my Mother. We both know a great deal about the incident and we are willing to tell you all we know, if you are willing to listen. But in return I want some long overdue answers.

One thing that does bother both my Mother and myself was not so long after the incident on the East Lancs Road. My Mother was walking home from shopping. and it was daylight. Her attention was caught by a bright light which flashed her three times then disappeared. Six miles away at the same time we found out later, the same light which was enormous, did the same to me as I was driving home with a friend. It's all so strange.

If I don't get any help or advise from you I really don't know what to do next. Because I have a gut feeling that we have not seen the last of this odd craft or the occupants

Please take this letter seriously, because we need you too. I have never written to anyone about all this I think it is about time something should be done or at least discussed

Yours Sincerely

Section 40

P.S. I would like to add that I know that the Ministry of

Defence. Tend to concern themselves about objects sighted in the UK Airspace. This object was in the UK airspace and it did fly below tree level and it was not a craft from this world believe me. If you dont want to accept this or at least investigate it Then I for one will have some serious thought regarding concern for the defence of our country to say the least.

Yours again most sincerely

Section 40

[redacted]

THE UNIVERSITY OF

School of History
The University
Leeds
LS2 9JT
Telephone Section 40

20th November 1986

Dear Sir,

I wrote to you several weeks ago, enquiring whether there were any plans to release the 1951 Intelligence Study on flying saucers at the Public Record Office. Conclusions of the report were released this year in P.R.O. reference PREM. 11/855, but the full report seems to have been retained. I was hoping to write an article on the subject,

Yours sincerely,

Section 40 [redacted]

Archives Dept.,
Ministry of Defence,
Whitehall,
London.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec /
26 NOV 1986
RMLE

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff), Room Section 40

E28
FILE
171
8

Section 40

D/Sec(AS)12/3
7 November 1986

Thank you for your letter on the sighting you witnessed in June. You may find it useful if I explain that the sole interest of the Ministry of Defence in reported sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) is to establish whether they have any bearing on the defence of the country. We have to recognise that there are many strange things to be seen in the sky, but we believe there are adequate explanations for them. They may be satellite debris re-entering the earth's atmosphere, ball lightning, unusual cloud formations, meteorological balloons, aircraft lights, aircraft at unusual angles, or many other things.

Since our interest in UFOs is limited to possible defence implications we do not attempt to identify sightings and we cannot inform observers, such as yourself, of the probable identity of the object seen. The Department could not justify the expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond the pure defence interests.

I am sorry I can be of no further help.

Section 40

MEMORANDUM

MOD Form 4A

To FS 1b
Room Section 40
Date 4/4
Your ref. 2/10/86

From D. H. Ross (E27)
Sec(AS)2a
Room 4115 Section 40
Tel. Section 40
Our ref. Sec(AS)2a/12/5

Subject UFO - 12 new hits

Dear [illegible] D.55;
Ref [illegible] - 12 new hits
will be sent about.
I realise it could be a
good deal but I accept D.55;
point that a few more will matter
less so is time if we use to mention
it from [illegible]
Reply: you can see I will
contact with this visit.

Section 40

Rank/ Appointment ..... Name in Block Letters ..... Signature [redacted]

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

FILE 81/5

Section 40

D/Sec(AS)12/3

29 September 1986

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 27 July to the Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces; I have been asked to reply on his behalf.

I am afraid that this letter, as has our previous correspondence to your fellow ufologists, will prove a disappointment to you as I can only reiterate what has already been said, namely that the sole interest of the MOD in reported sightings of UFOs is to establish whether they have any bearing on the defence of the country. We have found no evidence that these phenomena represent a threat to national defence and therefore cannot justify devoting MOD resources to their investigation.

The Department is happy to release what information we have on specific incidents and we will of course continue to examine all reports we receive to ascertain whether there are any defence implications. We could not, however, justify the effort involved in searching for or collating information of a more general nature. In the same vein we could not agree your request to be given access to material on a general basis and therefore be seen to be discriminating against other interested parties. If members of the public feel that for scientific or other reasons there should be an attempt to establish the causes of such phenomena, that is for them, but we are confident that it is not something in which the MOD should need to become further involved.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

(EZS)

Ref 100/15447

Sec(AS)

The attached letter from [redacted] is forwarded to you for official action. this letter has/~~has not~~ been acknowledged from this office. The Minister attaches great importance in prompt replies to correspondence he receives and would like this letter answered by COP 19 AUG 86

Would you please let us see a copy of your reply quoting our reference. If this correspondence is transferred, then this office should be notified.

5 AUG 86

[redacted]
for ~~APS/Minster(DS)~~ USOfS(AF)
[redacted]

(E24)

Section 40

100/1447 30 JUL 1986

Section 40

27 July 1986 D/T 5/73

Tel:

Dear Sir,

We have corresponded, indirectly, during 1985 when MP David Alton forwarded letters to you and you were kind enough to respond. Those concerned an incident in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk, which I am not enquiring about. I consider further debate on this unlikely to be fruitful. And I have no desire to waste your valuable time.

I hope you will do me the justice of reading the enclosed memorandum. I appreciate its modest length and that it concerns UFOs - a subject not of prime urgency to you. But I think we might be able to offer mutual advantages if we were to cooperate.

I am aware that you have offered a degree of cooperation (and granted an interview?) to TV journalist Section 40 of Central TV. Whilst his project is laudable there is very little he will be able to achieve in a single short programme to a region-only audience. I hope that you might consider my eight years professional involvement in UFOs, my many writings, my position of some respect as a spokes-person on the subject and my current project's very wide potential audience worthy of some cooperation also.

I look forward to your response, and I am perfectly happy to come to London at any time to discuss this further with you.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

(E23)
(1 OF 3 PAGES

Subject: Unidentified Flying Objects

Enquirer: Section 40

Background - Director of Investigations for the British UFO Research Association.
Full-time UFO researcher.
Author of several books on the subject.

Concerns - A serious interest in what is happening with no fixed opinion or beliefs concerning 'sinister plots'. Clearly the MoD is witholding data, for reasons it must consider important. However, I am quite happy to accept that no substantive knowledge (perhaps only bafflement) is being obscured.

Whilst it is true that I have caused some embarrassment via my book "SKY CRASH" - about the December 1980 incidents in Rendlesham Forest - I have decided to let this matter drop and do not request further responses on that.

My approach to UFOs can be seen as objective, willing to accept that most cases have sober explanations, prepared to look for less sensational solutions (eg atmospheric phenomena) in those that do not - but utterly baffled by the wealth of military encounters and credible accounts from qualified observers, to the point that I cannot rule out something else being responsible for a few reports. The reaction of the MoD in denying data it certainly has on these matters frankly puzzles me. Surely it would be in your interests to work through someone qualified, experienced and with a certain respected audience (modestly I could cite myself) to let the truth be told in a way that would be accepted? Continued opposition to this only fosters the idea that you are hiding shocking facts. If you are not (and I am quite willing to believe this) then there does not seem any reasonable argument for not being more forthcoming.

Immediate Item: I am in the final stages of a book to be published to coincide with the fortieth anniversary of the 1947 UFO sightings. This will be a mass market paperback that will come out in Britain, America, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. Material in the hands of my publisher includes much I have been saving up for years. The book examines the official study of UFOs in most western countries (and, indeed, the USSR).

For this book I travelled widely and secured interviews and documents. Officially released documents concerning military jet chases, radar trackings, gun-camera filming etc will be cited from many respectable nations - including America, Australia, France and Spain. It will be very difficult for the sensible reader to look at this (which is not presented in a hysterical fashion) and conclude that Britain is somehow immune. Why then - they will wonder - does the MoD deny such material?

The position is further complicated by the first-hand interviews I will be citing involving British military officials - from radar officers through pilots, servicemen and on to Wing Commanders - describing their own encounters, over our soil, with exactly the same sort of thing. It will be hard for the reader to presume all these are invalid.

Then there will be the official statements - on the record - I publish. These accept the reality of unexplained UFO reports and intelligence assessments utterly denied by your department. They come from places such as Lord Hill-Norton, who was chief of staff at the MoD - and Ralph Noyes, who was under-secretary at DS 8. I have him quoted at some length (and on tape to prove it is on record) stating that there is gun-camera film in MoD archives taken by RAF pilots. Of course, this must also be accompanied by some form of analysis report.

Supporting this will be the many documents I do have in reference to MoD UFO policy. These include the repeated statements of "no defence threat" - something nobody (least of all me) is suggesting, However, it is perfectly obvious that you do not merely ignore pilot observations, ground radar trackings, airborne radar trackings and gun-camera film. Even if you do not know what is going on you must have made some assessments. The few single sheets of paper containing responses to the MoD report form (which I have) simply cannot be accepted as all you obtain on military encounters. Although they may be all you have on ones reported from civilians.

I should point out that I have looked into some of the cases you declassified in this form in 1983. They contain disturbing encounter which - if you did indeed not follow them up in any way (as the witnesses suggest) - may concern you. In at least one case a former RAF aircraft engineer was a back-up witness to one of the sightings you released. He got a close up view of the thing and is extremely perturbed by it.

There are also Hansard extracts in reference to the number of cases the MoD has logged.

Request:

I am a British citizen and totally loyal to the crown. I have absolutely no desire to do or say anything that is harmful to our defence. Any things which may have lead to difficulties in the past stem from my ignorance and from the fact that you continu to insist that UFOs are not of defence interest (although you still record them). Since it is completely impossible to dismiss the reality of UFOs faced with the evidence, I have to take this as a signal to continue in what I perceive as the best interests of the common people. If I am wrong it cannot be my fault, and I trust you see the situation I am in. How can I give up when something is happening? If the MoD or some scientific body (as I have previously suggested might care to take over the problem) does not represent the people openly - then I must.

I do not expect to be given access to security data. However, if MoD policy about UFOs is understood by me then most UFO data is only secret because all material is regarded as confidential. I would be happy to sign any agreement (Official Secrets Act if necesssary) to protect witness identities etc. These are not important And if the facts behind them are not of defence concern then surely there can be no objection to my examining these? They are most definitely of public concern and I wish to do a fair job representing these. That is all.

I know you may talk of privileged access opening the floodgates, but I am sure you could justify my request on its special merits. After all there are no other full-time researchers. Nobody else has published eight books on the matter. And I would be acting as a sort of public relations officer for you - under whatever reasonable restrictions you propose. These conditions cannot be duplicated by any other source and by allowing me access and affording me the opportunity to make this data available to others I will surely fulfill a useful role.

In October 1982 I was told (and I quote) "since it is our intention to publish UFO reports we have received, it would be inappropriate to give particular individuals privileged access to our records. However, should our plans be subject to further significant delay we will obviously reconsider our position on this point." This is signed by Section 40 from DS 8.

I have many correspondances since - and I trust you note I kept this announcement of intention secret for several months - until a public statement was

issued to me.On 24 April 1984 Section 40 confirmed,"it has been decided not to publish the reports of alleged UFO sightings we receive".Financial and time pressures were reasonably cited, in view of the "hundreds of these reports each year" you receive.Privileged access was refused on the simple grounds that they are subject to the Public Records Act and would be available in 30 years time - the first,presumably being in 1992,as the earliest data you claim to hold dates from 1962. This, of course, was something known in October 1982,when Watkins first wrote to me. I suspect the press furore over the Rendlesham Forest incidents was a prime reason for the decision. But I must again point out that any embarrassment caused was due to the failure of the MoD to help me. Had you been openly cooperative I could have fairly told the truth about the matter.

I believe my normal approach to UFO cases demonstrates my willingness to accept reasonable answers. See - for example- my article in "New Scientist" in February 1983 which championed rational solutions to UFO cases. Or my most recent book "Science and the UFOs",which is far from a sensational outpouring and comes from a reputable science publishers. You may also have noted my involvement with the media during July 1986 demystifying the "circles in the cornfields" around Southern England.I went to considerable lengths and personal financial expense to do this through media sources such as BBC radio, the national media (Daily Telegraph and Guardian) and ITV.

I think this illustrates my interest is the truth - not sensationalism.

I can only hope my arguments in this memorandum make sense to you. As endorsements there are a number of people I could refer you to. Two are perhaps the most important:-

Section 40 my opposite number (Director of Investigations) in Australia, has already been granted exactly the privilege I request by being invited to Canberra and offered access to RAAF files. He has previously written to your offices,as we agreed, to enforse my request.

The other person is Section 40 of NASA. Section 40 was one of only five American scientists security cleared high enough to take part in the CIA sponsored (top secret) "Robertson Panel" seminar in January 1953.I think he would back up my claim - as he has responded publicly in a very favourable manner to "Science and the UFOs", saying that I fairly and accurately reflect the true nature of the American governments involvement in UFOs - based upon his intimate knowledge of the matter.

Of course,I was able to do this because of Freedom of Information documents and a somewhat more liberal approach to data there . However,I trust it illustrates that I can do a fair job given the information. I would very much like to do this for the MoD, rather than have to again rely upon readers making inferences out of your silence.

Anything you can do would be greatly appreciated.

Section 40

27 July 1986

(COPY -> TO PUBLISHERS FILES) ✓
-> TO PERSONAL FILES ✓

(E22)

There have all been copied from US of S(AF) Folder DGT/5173 returned to US of S(AF) registry Friday 10 JULY 1987

Reference: D/US of S(AF)DGT/5173

SEC(AS) MI

Will you please forward by 1300 hours on 12TH. MARCH '85. a draft reply to the letter at E1, together with any other relevant information and papers. This should be cleared by a Principal/Grade 1 equivalent or above.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THIS DEADLINE IS MET as US of S(AF) takes a close, personal interest in Parliamentary correspondence and expects to reply promptly.

Should this case require a transfer to another Department it is important that it be returned to this office without delay for appropriate action (irrespective of the timescale quoted in paragraph 1).

If you have any problems or queries on the handling of this file please ring MB [redacted] as soon as possible.

Section 40

Section 40 [redacted]

26/2/85. for APS/US of S(AF)

Section 40 [redacted]

M2

APS/US of S(AF)

1. I attach a draft reply to David Alton MP. Since Mr Alton is unlikely to be familiar with the MOD's interest in the subject, the draft follows the standard line taken with correspondents on UFOs.

2. However, Mr Alton's correspondent, Section 40 [redacted] is well known to us. She has written on a number of occasions, both privately and as Director of Investigations of the British UFO Research Association, concerning the reported sighting at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980. She has also written a book on the subject. She has been assured that there is no question of a cover up over this incident. A copy of her letter of 15 March 1983 and our reply of 13 April 1983 are enclosed. There is nothing we can usefully add to what has been said to Section 40 [redacted] before.

3. Also enclosed are copies of 2 PQs which we normally pass to correspondents who may be interested. One of these, put down by Sir Patrick Wall on 24 October 1983, is specifically mentioned in Section 40 [redacted] letter.

4. You may also have seen an article, again mentioned by Section 40 [redacted] which appeared in The Guardian on 5 January 1985, giving an interesting counter-argument to that which she propounds. Section 40 Section 40 [redacted] is clearly not convinced by the Guardian piece and for this reason no mention of it is made in the draft reply which will no doubt be passed on to her. However, a copy of the article is enclosed and US of S(AF) may like to pass this to Mr Alton for information under separate cover.

Mar 85

Section 40 [redacted]
Sec(AS)2
Section 40 [redacted]

M3

Sec(AS) .....

To note E...7/8... Please extract one copy for your records and complete any outstanding action.

Section 40 [redacted]
for APS/U.S. of S. (Armed Forces)

20/3/85.

MOD Form 136 (EZ1)

Minute Sheet No. Reference DGT 5173

Minutes and Brief Details of Enclosures

Clas.	Encl. No.

M4

SEC (AS)

Please note EY. Forward a draft reply to this office by close of play 12/6/85.

Section 40

24/5/85. For AVS/US of S(AF)

X Section 40

Reference.....

(E20)

M5

APS/US of S(AF)
through Sec(AS)2 (Section 40) M6

1. US of S(AF) will recall recent correspondence on this matter with Lord Hill-Norton and Rt Hon Merlyn Rees MP. In both cases he took the line that we have nothing to add to what had already been said on the Woodbridge incident. Indeed, this was the line taken in previous correspondence with David Alton (See M3). The enclosed draft reply to Mr Alton once more follows this approach.

2. Mr Alton specifically requested a copy of the MOD official reply to Mr Noyes' last letter. This is enclosed, together with an earlier letter to which it refers. There is no objection to passing this correspondence to Mr Alton.

3. You may wish to note that Mr Alton has apparently passed on both letters sent by Lord Trefgarne on 19 March 85, even though one of these was intended to be for his information only.

Section 40

12 June 1985

Sec(AS)2a
Section 40

M6

Sec(AS).....

To note E..12..... Please extract one copy for your records and complete any outstanding action.

Section 40

25 JUN 1985

for APS/U.S. of S. (Armed Forces)

CODE 18-77

E19

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
Section 40 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE ARMED FORCES

D/US of S(AF)DGT 5173

17 June 1985

Dear Mr Alton,

Thank you for your letter of 16 May to Michael Heseltine enclosing one from Mr R Noyes. You asked to see a copy of the Department's reply to Mr Noyes' letter of 25 February 1985 and this is enclosed, together with earlier correspondence to which it refers.

As I pointed out in my letter of 19 March, the MOD concerns itself only with the defence implications of reported UFO sightings. In this context, the report submitted by Col Halt in January 1981 was examined by those in the Department responsible for such matters and, as I have made clear in the past, it was considered to have no defence significance. We have since seen nothing to alter this view and there is nothing I can usefully add to the comments made in the official's letter of 25 February to Mr Noyes.

Yours sincerely,

Trefgarne

Lord Trefgarne

David Alton Esq MP

12 JUN 1985

E18

DRAFT

D/US of S(AF)/DGT 5173 June 1985

Thank you for your letter of 16 May to Michael Heseltine enclosing one from Mr R Noyes. You asked to see a copy of the Department's reply to Mr Noyes' letter of 25 February 1985 and this is enclosed, together with earlier correspondence to which it refers.

As I pointed out in my letter of 19 March, the MOD concerns itself only with the defence implications of reported UFO sightings. In this context, the report submitted by Col Halt in January 1981 was examined by those in the Department responsible for such matters and, as I have made clear in the past, it was considered to have no defence significance. We have since seen nothing to alter this view and there is nothing I can usefully add to the comments made in official's letter of 25 February to Mr Noyes.

Lord Trefgarne

David Alton Esq MP

Job No 2-24

(E17)

(1 of 3 pages)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

Mr R Noyes
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)12/3

Date
15 May 1985

Dear Mr Noyes

Thank you for your letter of 25 February 1985, addressed to Section 40 who, as I believe you now know, has left this division (now Sec(AS)). I am sorry that I have not been able to reply before now. Thank you also for sight of the extracts from your proposed book.

In his letter of 20 March 1984, Section 40 explained the MOD's position regarding Colonel Halt's reports on events near RAF Woodbridge in 1980, and I have little to add to the views Section 40 expressed. I know from your letter that you are well aware of the limited extent of the MOD's interest in the subject. Nonetheless, there are, perhaps, one or two points which I should make. Firstly, whilst I cannot, of course, comment on the proportion of UFO sightings which are not reported, I can assure you that those which are reported to local police forces and to the Civil Aviation Authority should all be passed on to this division of the MOD. We treat all these reports seriously in case they show anything of defence interest. However, we have never found any reason to believe that, in the defence context, such reports warrant more detailed research. Equally, since our interest extends only as far as defence of the UK, there has never been any formal liaison with other Governments.

Turning to your specific questions about the Woodbridge incident, I can assure you that no unidentified object was seen on any radar recordings during the period in question, and that the MOD has no knowledge of the tape-recording or cine film you mention. As we have said in the past, the report sent by Colonel Halt was examined by those in the Department responsible for the air defence of the UK and since then there has been nothing to alter the view that there was no defence significance to the incident.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Section 40 Head of Defence Secretariat 8

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct Dialling) Section 40

(Switchboard) Section 40

D/DS 8/10/209

R N Noyes Esq

Section 40

20 March 1984

Dear Ralph,

I do apologise for not replying earlier to your correspondence about the alleged unexplained sightings at RAF Woodbridge in 1980. As Section 40 may have explained when you spoke to him, we have had staff changes in the relevant section of DS 8 and have been under a lot of pressure generally. However, that does not excuse the delay for which I hope you will accept my sincere regrets.

I am afraid, however, that there is very little information I can give you in answer to your questions about RAF Woodbridge. I am not sure whether DS 8 had responsibility for the MOD interest in UFO matters in your day but, if it did, you will remember how very limited MOD's interest is in such reports. Our sole concern is to establish whether they reveal anything of defence interest (intruding aircraft, for example) and we do not pursue our investigations beyond the stage at which we are satisfied that there are no direct defence implications.

As far as the Woodbridge incident is concerned, John Stanley, Minister for the Armed Forces confirmed in answer to a written Parliamentary Question from Sir Patrick Wall MP on 24 October last year, that MOD had, indeed, received the USAF report to which you refer. The Department satisfied itself at the time that there was no reason to consider that the alleged sightings had any defence significance.

That is not to say, however, that Colonel Halt and the other personnel mentioned in the report were, as you suggest, suffering from hallucinations. Speaking personally, I can accept that people do from time to time see things in the sky which they find difficult to explain. I am sure you will agree that in many cases normal explanations come to light, such as falling meteorites or satellite debris, unusual cloud

Section 40 Head of Defence Secretariat 8

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct Dialling) Section 40

(Switchboard) Section 40

D/DS 8/10/209

R N Noyes Esq
Section 40

20 March 1984

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(E16)
(1 of 11 PAGES)

20 MAY 1985

PS

PS/US of S (AF)

Sec (US)

I would be grateful if your Minister would reply on the Secretary of State's behalf to the attached letter which he has received from a Member of Parliament.

Section 40 [redacted]

Parliamentary Clerk
Section 40 [redacted]

20th May 1985.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

16th May 1985

Dear Michael,

I enclose a letter I have received from Mr R Noyes following on from enquiries I first raised with your Department in March.

I read Mr Noyes letter with great interest and it seems to me that the points he raises are quite reasonable and merit a reply. I should be most grateful if you could let me have your comments and if you could let me see a copy of the reply to Mr Noyes' own letter to your Department dated 25th February 1985.

Yours sincerely,

David Alton.

David Alton, MP.

The Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, MP.
Secretary of State
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1 2HB

Section 40 [redacted]

14th May, 1985

David Alton, Esq., MP,
House of Commons,
Westminster,
London SW1

Dear Mr. Alton,

Section 40 [redacted] has kept me informed about her correspondence with you on the unusual incidents which were reported to the Ministry of Defence by USAF authorities at RAF Woodbridge in January 1981. I have also seen Lord Trefgarne's letters to you of 19th March.

Section 40 [redacted] decided to write further to you about this puzzling and disquieting case, and she referred to me her enclosed letter of 31st March, which is addressed to you, in the hope that I might be able to add useful comments. Much to my regret I have had to spend much time out of London on other business in recent weeks and it is only now that I am able, very belatedly, to send on Section 40 [redacted] letter to you.

My own background, in brief, is that I served in the Ministry of Defence from 1949 to 1977, leaving in the grade of Under Secretary of State. From 1969 to late in 1972 I headed a Division in the central staffs of the MOD which had responsibilities for supporting RAF operations. This brought me into touch with a proportion of the many reports which the Department receives about unidentified traces in British airspace.

I believe that Section 40 [redacted] is right to remain very dissatisfied with the official line which the MOD has adopted on the Rendlesham Forest incidents of December 1980. I have myself said so on a number of public occasions, and I have pursued the matter in correspondence with the MOD - wholly without success.

At the risk of burdening you with an excessive amount of paper, I attach the most recent of my letters to the Ministry of Defence. You will see that this is dated 25th February 1985. I have so far received no answer, despite reminders. On a previous occasion it took the Department three and a half months to send me a wholly perfunctory reply.

Section 40 [redacted] claims much collateral evidence for her own views; on this I am not competent to comment. My own position is, quite simply, that an extraordinary report was made to the Ministry of Defence by the Deputy Base Commander at RAF Woodbridge early in 1981; that the very existence of this report was denied by the MOD until persistent researchers in the US secured its release under the American Freedom of Information Act in 1983; and that the MOD's responses to questions since that time have been thoroughly unsatisfactory.

I cannot accept Lord Trefgarne's view that there is no Defence interest in this case. Unless Lt.Col. Halt was out of his mind, there is clear evidence in his report that British airspace and territory were intruded upon by an unidentified vehicle on two occasions in late December 1980 and that no authority was able to prevent this. If, on the other hand, Halt's report cannot be believed, there is equally clear evidence of a serious misjudgement of events by USAF personnel at an important base in British territory. Either way, the

case can hardly be without Defence significance.

The dates in question are now rather remote, but I doubt that this should be taken to excuse the very perfunctory manner in which Lord Trefgarne has dealt with your letter. I hope that you may feel able to pursue the matter further, either in correspondence or in a PQ. The essence of the questions to be pressed seems to me to lie in my preceding paragraph. Seen in these terms, Mr. Section 40 article in the GUARDIAN (which Lord Trefgarne rather surprisingly falls back upon) is wholly irrelevant. If the USAF really are capable of hallucinations induced by a lighthouse which must surely be very familiar to them, then I shudder for that powerful finger which lies upon so many triggers...

My own letter to the MOD (enclosed) raises other more detailed questions. But I do not suggest that you should necessarily concern yourself with them, anyway at this stage. It would be nice if the MOD would answer letters, of course ! But the essence of the Defence interest which I suggest a responsible Member of Parliament might reasonably raise lies in the argument I have tried to present above.

If I can be of any assistance in discussion with you, I am at your disposal.

Yours sincerely,

Ralph Noyes

(Ralph Noyes)

Section 40 [redacted]

31 March 1985

Dear Mr Alton,

Thank you for your enclosures (undated) which reached me on 30th inst.

May I comment on the reply of Lord Trefgarne to yourself.

His letter is virtually a word-for-word repeat of the standard MoD line (it must save money to keep churning them out of the word processor!) However, he does add a couple of points not previously noted. These are the specific references to not covering up "any incident or mishap" and not "in any way to obscure the truth". That said, and it presumably being true, I would have thought that it was of interest to know from the MoD why they only have the memo from Col Halt (and note he is refered to in Trefgarne's letter as Colonel Halt, his rank now, although on the memo he is Lt.Col.).

Bear in mind that this incident (whatever it was) occurred on BRITISH soil (not base land) and just outside the perimeter fence of an RAF owned base. Consequently British citizens have a right to expect to have been kept informed of matters, especially as then British commander (Squadron Leader Section 40 [redacted] was specifically on base for that purpose.

YET - according to the MoD stance - we are lead to believe the following data was at no time made available...VIZ

(i) The tape recording made by Halt, the base security chief and several other senior officers,which describes in detail the taking of soil samples,tree samples,photographs radiation readings,infra-red readings etc AT THE SITE ON BRITISH SOIL. Subsequently (as the tape records) a "UFO" reappeared. This tape is in our hands and Section 40 [redacted] personally told me in January 1984 (several months before we got it from the US commander in America) that he was aware of its existence.

How come the MoD have no copy? How come the activities recorded on it took place on British soil without MoD knowledge? How come Section 40 [redacted] never advised the MoD of this vital evidence?

(ii) The photographs and samples recorded on the tape (which is officially accepted as genuine by the US) are,again,crucial evidence.Under a recent Freedom of Information (US) request they have been admitted and are likely to be made available in theUSA very shortly. Again, I think we are entitled to ask why the MoD appear not only to be unaware of these but have no copies or copies of the analysis results which must accompany them. Again Section 40 [redacted] was aware that these samples and photographs were taken

IF, as the MoD contend, the events do not bear any relationship to a secret test or experiment (and if they do they have lied both to you,as an MP, and to me) then,that is an admission that they involve an Unidentified Object (which is all I contend the UFO to be). Indeed in the letter to me of 13 April 1983 DS 8 do say that the lights are unidentified and have "no explanation".

It seems to me that there are questions here concerning the inter-relation between the US Air Force on British soil and our country IF, as contended, several senior officers from a USAF base can be involved in protracted work outside the base and on British land without such facts being known by the MoD or the results of their work being made available.

It is an interesting question as to who legally owns the samples of allegedly

irradiated soil and tree bark taken from BRITISH land (owned by the Forestry Commissi in fact)! I doubt very much that the USAF have carte blanche approval to do what the like on our shores. And if they do I for one am very concerned about it!

Finally, you will note that the official response makes no reference to the lighthouse, normal background radiation theories propounded by Ian Ridpath in the Guardian (on th strength of almost no evidence). Yet the Trefgarne letter to you does try to convince you this is the answer,

Neither the MoD nor the USAF will accept the lighthouse theory officially because they are as well aware as I am that it is easily refutable by the facts. Section 40 actually stated on television (in a debate with myself)(5 March 1985) that he regarded his investigation as more objective. His investigation, as he admitted, has consisted of interviewing not a single one of the 17 eye-witnesses from the USAF now traced as being present during the events. Instead it consisted of speaking to one forestry worker who found some holes in the ground one month after the sightings and has presumed they might have been connected! I have spoken to that worker also, on the site itself, and he is less than convinced of his theory himself.

None of this takes into account the various BRITISH CIVILIAN eye-witnesses who saw the events, some in positions where it is literally impossible to see the lighthouse, others looking in the opposite direction from it, and one who had the decidely curious experience of the "lighthouse" flying right over the top of his house!

I am trying to force no explanation onto anybody. But frankly the lighthouse idea is utterly ridiculous and the MoD must know that.

Besides which - what does it do to the USAF/RAF/MoD inter-relationship if all these senior officers (base commander, deputy commander, chief security officer, on-duty night command officer and control tower chief amongst them!) do not know what a lighthouse looks like, which has stood five miles from one of our bases for decades and still stands today?

It seems to me this proffers defence implications should these men (or men like them) ever be put into a situation where they have to defend this land!

In connection with which comes the question of the radiation. Section 40 insists this was ordinary background stuff. The forest was not irradiated, The "peak" readings in the alleged ground traces (samples taken) are quoted as seven-tenths on the point five scale. And I am reliably informed these are significant.

But again - assuming they are not - are we to take it that none of these senior USAF officers have received any training in radiation monitoring? If so - are YOU satisfied to leave them in charge of cruise missiles and nuclear weapons on our shores?

I know that I am not happy, and I am convinced that such factors pose even more serious defence implications than if a genuine bona-fide UFO was involved. The MoD have steadfastly refused to make any comment on these matters. Perhaps you, Mr Alton, can get them to do so?

I pass this letter to Ralph Noyes for forwarding to you, with a letter I trust he will write you. Ralph, as former head of the DS 8 section handling UFO enquiries, knows the situation better than I , supports our call for more information on this affair, and will I hope open your eyes to the truth about what is being obscured here.

Please do not be put off. There are important civil liberties issues at stake.

Best Wishes, Section 40

Section 40

25th February, 1985

Section 40
Head of DS8,
Ministry of Defence.

Dear Section 40

You may remember that I wrote to you in November 1983 about the reported occurrence of unusual events near RAF Woodbridge in December 1980. Your reply, D/DS8/10/209 of 20th March 1984, told me that the MOD saw no Defence significance in Colonel Halt's report of 13th January 1981. You suggested that the events reported by him probably reflected some entirely down-to-earth, but misperceived, phenomenon.

I am aware that DS8 has had several approaches on this matter from outside groups and individuals who possibly show more enthusiasm than judgement in the questions they press. I hesitate to place a further burden on the patience and courtesy of your Division. Nonetheless, there do remain some puzzling, and perhaps disquieting, features of this case on which I think it would be in the general interest to cast some further light.

I owe it to you to explain my interest. It lies in the following - not necessarily in the right order of priority !

First, as an ex-MOD chap, I have been asked from time to time by various bits of the media to comment on the Woodbridge affair. I have in fact done so on several occasions on local radio and on foreign television. One of the television programmes is now likely to be shown here before long and may excite some public interest. If I am invited to comment again, I would not wish to do so irresponsibly.

Secondly, I am publishing a book this June on the UFO phenomenon generally. My publishers are keen that it should say something about Woodbridge. I have already drafted a passage which reflects my own study of the case, and I am attaching to this letter the relevant extracts which deal with it. I do not, of course, expect you to comment on this (unless you wish to do so), but I feel it is no more than proper to give former colleagues some advance notice of what I am proposing to publish.

Thirdly, as the attached extract implies, I have come to the conclusion over the past year or so - somewhat reluctantly and by no means hastily - that something of importance (and something which is not illusory) underlies the persistent stream of reports of well authenticated occurrences, both in the UK and elsewhere, which can be loosely grouped under the UFO heading. Some of these reports reach the MOD from members of the public (and they doubtless also continue to do so from Service establishments as well); but a far larger number get no further than the local police, civil aviation authorities, or the amateur research groups. These occurrences may or may not prove to have any vital interest for Defence, and the Woodbridge case may or may not properly belong among them. But the sizable and persistent hard core of the more disquieting instances - particularly those in which there appears to be some degree of temporary interference with electronic equipment and/or minor damage to individuals and the environment -

ms to me to deserve closer and more expert attention in Whitehall than we are d to believe it gets at present. There is evidence that at least three other vernments take the phenomenon seriously. A mass of documents released in the s under the American Freedom of Information Act shows a close and continuing interest by governmental agencies. The French agency GEPAN (Groupe d'Etudes des Phénomènes Aérospatiaux Non-identifiés) which was set up by the then French Minister of Defence in 1977 under CNES (Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales) remains in existence despite the heavy retrenchment in French government expenditure and continues to collect and analyse UFO reports country-wide. And there is a degree of recent evidence in the Soviet Press that the Russians take a close interest in the phenomenon through the Moscow Aviation Institute and (possibly) the National Academy of Sciences. Is it really the case that the British MOD takes no systematic interest (as distinct from dealing ad hoc with what are felt to be tiresome enquiries from the public) ? If there really is no systematic study of the phenomenon, viz. something in the nature of a small expert committee in Whitehall or the placing of responsibility on a designated and expert directorate in the MOD, should there not be ? Is there no liason with French and US agencies ?

I hope that you will feel able to comment on the three questions at the end of the preceding paragraph. I ask them, not in any spirit of contention, but because I believe that we cannot afford to ignore a persistent phenomenon which other countries appear to take seriously. It seems to me to deserve systematic study within a Defence context, even if only to dismiss it in the end as trivial. I think you will know that there are others, whose judgement is to be respected and whose experience qualifies them, who take a similar view, Lord Hill-Norton among them.

To return to the particular case of RAF Woodbridge, you may already be aware that television documentaries of the occurrence have been made by two foreign companies. The programme made by Cable News Network is now likely to be shown in this country before long. I have not yet seen the documentary in full, myself, but I understand from the organisation that they claim to have established a number of facts which are very much at odds with the view that Col. Halt and other USAF personnel merely misperceived some phenomenon with a wholly conventional explanation (the Orfordness lighthouse, a satellite re-entry, a bright meteor). The following are among the more important points which Cable appear to be claiming.

1. Col. Halt adheres to the report of 13th January 1981, of which the MOD has a copy. He also confirms the authenticty of a tape-recording made by himself on site on the night of 29th December 1980 which tallies with paragraph 3 of his report (and in some respects goes beyond it).

2. Other witnesses to the events of 27th and 29th December 1980 reported by Halt have made sworn depositions.

3. Although not reported by Halt, there was an unusual occurence near RAF Woodbridge on the night of 26th December 1980. An unidentified object in an area of Rendlesham Forest sufficiently worried USAF personnel to cause them to seek help from the Suffolk police. Police officers at Woodbridge (the village) have confirmed that they responded to this call, albeit without establishing unambiguous evidence at the site of the 'sighting' claimed by the USAF contingent which had been sent to investigate it.

4. There is evidence that RAF Watton (and perhaps other radar installations) had radar traces on at least one of the three nights in question of an unidentified aerial object in the area of RAF Woodbridge/Rendlesham Forest

5. There is evidence that a 16mm cine-film was made at the site by USAF personnel on 29th December 1980 and was referred for study by the USAF headquarters in Germany.

In your letter to me of 20th March 1984 you said, "The Department satisfied itself at the time that there was no reason to consider that the alleged sightings had any Defence significance". You added, "I can assure you ... that there is no evidence of anything having intruded into British airspace and 'landing' near RAF Woodbridge". In the light of the research which Cable News Network claim to have undertaken I hope you will not think it unreasonable if I invite your replies to the following questions.

1. What steps were taken by the MOD when Col. Halt's report of 13 January 1981 was received in the Department ? In particular:-

   a. What consultations took place with the USAF ?

   b. Was any on-site investigation made by MOD or British Service personnel ?

   c. Was any enquiry made to RAF Watton or other radar establishments for possible traces of an unidentified occurrence in the Suffolk area on the nights of 26/27, 27/28 and 29/30 December 1980 ? If so, what was the outcome ?

2. Is the MOD aware of the tape-recording which Col. Halt claims to have made on 29 December 1980 (and of which alleged copies are now in the hands of several members of the public) ? If so, what interpretation does the MOD place on this recording ?

3. Is the MOD aware of the cine-film allegedly made on site on 29th December 1980 ? If so, what interpretation is placed upon it ?

4. In the light of the answers to these questions does the MOD adhere to its view that nothing unknown or untoward intruded into British airspace in late December 1980 ? Is this also the view of the USAF ?

4. If this does indeed remain the MOD's considered conclusion, does the Department feel any disquiet at an apparent and persistent misperception of presumably innocent phenomena by USAF personnel based at an important installation in British territory and charged with military tasks the mismanagement of which might have grave consequences ?

I regret burdening you with these questions and with those contained in my sixth paragraph above. But I think they are potentially important, and I doubt that we have heard the last of them.

Yours,

(Ralph Noyes)

Enclosure: Extract from forthcoming book, A SECRET PROPERTY.

Yet the phenomenon is undoubtedly under study in at least some back rooms... That air of governmental indifference is an assumed one...

From documents released under the Freedom of Information Act in America we have undeniable evidence of a keen interest in the phenomenon on the part of the CIA, the National Security Agency, and other government departments. The facts are meticulously documented in a recent book, CLEAR INTENT by Lawrence Fawcett and Barry J. Greenwood (Prentice-Hall, 1984). We know that the French government remains interested: GEPAN continues in existence despite singeing cuts imposed on many departments by the Mitterand government a little while ago (though we can only speculate on what use is made of its material by its directing body, the French equivalent of NASA). We know that the Russian Academy of Sciences regularly buys a surprising number of each issue of the most prestigious British journal on the UFO phenomenon (though its importation by ordinary Soviet citizens is forbidden !). We must strongly suspect - to put it no higher - that the British Ministry of Defence is taking a close interest in the phenomenon. As a former Ministry of Defence official I sincerely hope so ! Anything which can enter and leave British airspace with impunity, land on British territory, leave confusing traces in our radar system, interfere with electrical and electronic devices, register itself on film and out-manoeuvre British aircraft (and I think there is evidence for all these things) must surely be of more than passing interest to a government department which is charged with our defence. I hope I shall be thought to compliment rather than criticise my former colleagues and present acquaintances in Whitehall if I ruefully congratulate them on the suave effrontery with which they pretend to be taking no notice of the stranger occurrences reported to them !

It grieves me to add that I think we have some evidence of direct and deliberate mis-statement on the part of the Ministry of Defence in at least one important case, the occurrence of strange events on two nights in late December 1980 in a part of Rendlesham Forest adjoining the USAF Base at RAF Woodbridge. We have the evidence for these events in a statement signed on 13th January 1981 by the then Deputy Base Commander, Lt.Col. (now ~~Brigadier General~~ COLONEL) Charles Halt of the United States Air Force. This statement was not made public until 14th June 1983 when - following persistent pressure by the authors of CLEAR INTENT (see above) - its release was authorised by the USAF in America under the Freedom of Information Act. Whether this release was an inadvertency at rather low level in the USAF we may never know: despite the Freedom of Information Act, American agencies have proved perfectly capable (and often no doubt with good reason) of sustaining objections in the courts to the release of documents. There is certainly some evidence that Halt was not consulted about the release and that it somewhat dismayed him. Be that as it may, however, the letter of release included the extraordinary statement that the USAF had disposed of its own copy of Halt's report but that: "... through diligent inquiry and the gracious consent of Her Majesty's government, the British Ministry of Defence and the Royal Air Force, the US Air Force was provided a copy for you." The Ministry of Defence have confirmed in reply to a Parliamentary Question tabled by Major Sir Patrick Wall, MP, that a copy of Halt's report was indeed received by them. Yet we are told in a recent book - SKYCRASH by Brenda Butler, Dot Street and Jenny Randles (Neville Spearman Ltd., 1984) that the Ministry of Defence had flatly denied any knowledge of supposed EVENTS in Rendlesham Forest when enquiries were made to them in 1981, following strong local rumours of an extraordinary occurrence.

The Ministry of Defence may well have good reasons for witholding information about the Rendlesham incidents. As a former Defence official, I would not wish to press questions on any matter touching national security; and in those circumstances I would not be surprised if questions pressed by others were met by a refusal to reply. But I cannot help feeling that it is something of a lapse from the usual standards of a government department to issue a direct mis-statement. Concealment is one thing (and is often justified), false denial is quite another.

The RAF Woodbridge case of December 1980 strikes me as one of the most interesting and important of recent years, anyway in this country - perhaps the most significant military sighting (or supposed sighting) since the celebrated events of 13th/14th August 1956 near RAF Bentwaters and RAF Lakenheath (both of which are, by an entertaining coincidence, quite close to Woodbridge in that much-haunted county of Suffolk). Those who wish to study the Bentwaters/Lakenheath incidents will find descriptions of them in the books mentioned below. The RAF Woodbridge case is described at length in SKYCRASH (see above). It is also to be the subject of several radio and television programmes. Much was said about it in THE NEWS OF THE WORLD in 1983, mainly in its issues of 2nd and 9th October. Alone in Fleet Street, the then editor, Derek Jameson, decided to give space to Halt's report; and Keith Beabey of THE NEWS OF THE WORLD pursued it vigorously in the face of the kind of ridicule which the "quality" newspapers seem to find it expedient to attach to this mysterious and persistent phenomenon.

It was the Woodbridge case which prompted me to take up a long-shelved intention to write a "UFO book". I have chosen, quite deliberately, to cast it as a piece of fiction. Fiction allows the imagination to range widely, and it seems to me that this can sometimes be productive in turning better-qualified minds to new aspects of a problem. A false hypothesis can often have as much heuristic value as a good one ! It does, at the least, enable serious researchers to consider - and properly test - a new idea, even if only to throw it away when it fails to stand up to scrutiny. I am far from being wedded to the hypothesis on which A SECRET PROPERTY is based. The main object of the book is to entertain, and to do so in the form of a thriller. It most certainly does not reflect any inside knowledge or startling revelation on the part of a former Defence official. (If I had such knowledge, the Official Secrets Act would forbid me to reveal it !).

(E15)

£8

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
Section 40 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE ARMED FORCES

D/US of S(AF)DGT 5173

19 March 1985

Dear Mr Alton,

I enclose a formal reply to your letter of 21 February concerning Section 40 Section 40

I thought that you might also be interested to read the enclosed "Guardian" article which goes some way towards refuting Ms [redacted] arguments!

Yours sincerely,

Lord Trefgarne

David Alton Esq MP

E14

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
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Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
Section 40 (Switchboard)

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D/US of S(AF)/DGT 5173

19 March 1985

Dear Mr Alton,

Thank you for your letter of 21 February with the enclosed from Ms Section 40 of Section 40

I should first of all point out that the sole interest of the Ministry of Defence in reported sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) is to establish whether they have any bearing on the defence of the country.

There is no organisation in the Ministry of Defence appointed solely for the purpose of studying UFOs, and no staff are employed on the subject full time. The reports we receive are referred to the staff in the Department who are responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom, and they examine the reports as part of their normal duties. Unless there are defence implications we do not attempt to identify sightings and we cannot inform observers of the probable identity of the object seen. The Department could not justify the expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond the pure defence interests.

The only information we have on the alleged "UFO sighting" at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 is the report by Colonel Charles Halt, of the United States Air Force, which Ms Section 40 mentions in her letter. We are satisfied that the events described are of no defence significance. I can assure you that there is no question of attempting to cover up any incident or mishap, nor are we attempting in any way to obscure the truth.

I am also enclosing with this copies of 2 Parliamentary Questions, one of which is that put down by Sir Patrick Wall and which Ms Section 40 also mentions.

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Lord Trefgarne

David Alton Esq MP

26. F13

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Lord Trefgarne

David Alton Esq MP

DRAFT

See (AS) Retype final.

ES. (E12) (1 or 2 PAGES)

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Lord Trefgarne

David Alton Esq MP

Job No 2a(1)-40

Defence Secretariat Division 8

(E12)

E156.

Section 40

D/DS8/10/209-1270

8 April 1983

Thank you for your recent correspondence on the subject of UFOs.

As regards your offer to summarise the reports held by this Department there really is very little to summarise. I attach a copy of a blank report form showing the type of information we require together with a couple of examples of completed reports (with the name and address of the informant deleted for reasons of confidentiality). I am sure you will agree that, although we hold a large number of reports, each one is indeed very brief.

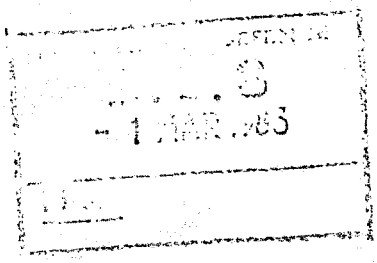
Turning now to your interest in the sighting at RAF Woodbridge in December 1980, I can confirm that USAF personnel did see unusual lights outside the boundary fence early in the morning of 27 December 1980 but no explanation for the occurrence was ever forthcoming. There is however, no question of the account being a cover-up for a crashed aircraft or testing of secret devices as you suggest, nor was there any contact with "alien beings".

I understand that an article on the Woodbridge sighting has been published in the magazine "OMNI" (Vol 5 No.6) in which you may be interested.

Section 40

(1 of 2 pages) (E11)

Section 40 [redacted]



February 26 1983

Dear Mrs Section 40 [redacted]

Further to your letter to me of 20 January 1983 (your ref: D/DS8/10/209); the subject UFOs. I trust you have received my subsequent letter to this (addressed to Section 40 [redacted]) wherin I suggested that you might consider lodging the files you hold with a recognised scientific establishment. Here they could be accessable (on arrangement) to serious researchers, and their use could be adequately controlled. I really think this makes sense because the volume of data you must hold would make it very difficult to release other than summaries in printed form and often access to the full materials might be essential for scientific study.

A number of possible sources for locating these files, eg a university, come to mind Indeed there have been a number of interested responses to the article on UFOs by myself and Section 40 [redacted] (New Scientist, 10 Feb 1983) to which I refer you for illustration of my, hopefully, serious and none-sensationilst position on this topic

I am well aware that to you UFO data is barely of interest and, as it does not seem to directly impinge on defence implications, of relatively low priority. However, I hope you also see that whilst 90% of these reports are unquestionably explicable there are reports that seem to offer probative data to scientists. Work that you, of course, have neither the facilities nor the resources to handle. It should be your concern that you hold this data, faithfully reported by individuals who would like something done. And I am delighted at your decision to make the material accessable for research.

Presumably it will be in your interests to cultivate a mood whereby UFO reports are not made to you, but to a scientific establishment (another advantage of lodging the files there). You could naturally rely upon the UFO community to transmit reports to you which might suggest defence implications. That is, if you are fair by serious investigators serious investigators will naturally be fair by you. And we too, of course, have the interests of Britain at heart and would not wish you to be unaware of any cases that might involve defence implications. Even though, as you have pointed out to me previously, none of your studies so far have produced such implications.

You have promissed to advise me when you have taken a decision to release data, which is why I was somewhat surprised to learn that you have supplied to some colleagues of mine in Bristol data on cases in South Wales. I would, therefore, very much like an update on the current position please. For the last few years while writing to you I have stressed that I want to help put across your true position to the public (with which I have some influence as a full-time writer of UFO books and articles). But for this purpose I do need your help in return, of course. I see from the current issue of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, for example, that much is said about your alleged cover-up and it is towards correcting this view with the facts (if you will openly give them) that I am concerned. Hence my previous requests to be granted access to the data prior to release so that I might present a fair review in the UFO literature and defuse such commentary.

Finally, on the question of defence implications, I would wish to advise you of an accretion of data concerning an incident which appears to have taken place at the US Air Force base at Woodbridge, Suffolk, in December 1980. It is of some concern to me that you have not been able to offer any statement on this event, because on face value the evidence does suggest that somebody is hiding something.

Now I have published some of the material supplied to me (and gathered myself) in the UFO literature, primarily because in lieu of any other reason I believe the information should be told. But understand my position here. I have no wish to do anything injurious to British defence and if I was offered any reason (however roundabout) which suggested the case should simply be dropped then I would do so. For example, it is possible that the UFO story is covering either an accident or

test of some secret device (either by British or American sources). Therefore, to continually stress this in a UFO context (which is how it has been reported) and yet inevitably have to mention such none-UFO explanations as these possibilities might be against this nations interests. Yet what else can I do, since I have no such reason to argue in this way and feel myself duty bound to discuss the matter in case it genuinely has gone un-noticed and yet may be of potential importance?

Vety briefly, on this case, we have first-class hard evidence (which we could of course give to the national press but have had no desire to so do) that something occurred (during the last three days of the month, possibly December 29, 1980). This includes evidence of radar tracking of the unexplained object, its 'landing' in Rendlesham Forest and a number of independant testimonies that relate to a quite fantastic account of what supposedly happened after that. It is impossible for me and the couple of other people in possession of these full facts not to accept that a genuine event did occur and naturally we are more than a little concerned that (a) it has not been admitted to and (b) you profess to know nothing about it.

As I said, the evidence is strong (almost, I might say, categorically probative) and could (if we chose to discuss the full facts in the right way outside the limited circulation we have done so far) lead to quite an outcry about cover-ups. Personally, I believe you must have vety good reason for doing what you are doing about this incident, and that may have nothing to do with UFOs per se. However, please see my position and recognise my dilemma. I want to do the right thing.

I am not expecting a reply saying anything specific about this event, but you may be able to offer advice about the problem I face. I have this data that seems probative. You do not seem to want it and claim to know nothing about it. I cannot just sit on it because it appears to be too important. Yet if I make a big issue out of it national security may suffer.

I would add that the story behind these events indicates that there was contact between military sources and an other intelligence (which is not alien spaceships in the nuts and bolts sense) but which is an indigenous intelligence to planet earth which in fact is way beyond us in terms of most capacities and therefore represent the real rulers of our world.

This account does merge with data offered by other sources to me (in confidence) including government officials in this country and abfoad. I have never published it and have actually played down the possibility in my books. I am not saying I believe it. But I am saying that I have heard it from so many dources that I do have to listen. And it does make a great deal of sense out of many things.

The UFO subject is complex and to represent it fairly very difficult. I so very much do want to do the right thing. But I am beginning to doubt if I am doing the right thing. Can you offer any advice?

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

[redacted]

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 81ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAFE)
APO NEW YORK 09755

REPLY TO ATTN OF: CD

13 Jan 81

SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

TO: RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metalic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10^{0} off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.

CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

A flashlight in the forest

Despite a massive cover-up, News of the World investigators have proof that the mysterious craft came to earth in a red ball of light. An American airman who has there told us there were three beings in silver space suits aboard the craft . . .' More seriously, they produced a supporting statement from a named American Air Force colonel, which we reprint on the right. And an American UFO expert who said 'You can't hide the truth for ever.' Which is where Ian Aldpath takes up the investigation.

OUR Christmases ago, something remarkable was said to have occurred outside the US Air Force base at Woodbridge, near Ipswich. News of the event leaked out slowly, finally hitting the headlines in October 1983: 'UFO Lands in Suffolk — Official," screamed the front page of the News of the World.

The story was sensational, told of a group of American airmen who were confronted one night with an alien spaceship in Rendlesham Forest, which surrounds the air force base. According to the story, a craft came down over the trees and landed in a blinding explosion of light.

The airmen tried to approach the object, but it moved away from them as though under intelligent control. The following day, landing marks were found on the ground, burns were seen on nearby trees, and radiation readings were recorded. There was even talk of aliens aboard the craft, and allegations of a massive cover-up. It had all the ingredients of a classic UFO encounter.

The News of the World's informant was a former US airman. He was given the pseudonym Art Wallace, for he claimed that his life had been threatened if he talked. Yet here he was freely giving interviews to newspapers and television.

While his fantastic story might be doubted, it was impossible to shrug off a memo written by the deputy base commander, Lt. Col. Charles I. Halt, to the Ministry of Defence, which was publicly released in the United States under the Freedom of Information Act. Halt's memo, reprinted in full here, is not as sensational as Wallace's story, but it is some documentary evidence of a type rarely encountered in UFO cases.

UFO researchers in Britain could scarcely believe their luck: this was The Big One, the real proof that We Are Not Alone. The News of the World paid £12,000 for the story, a book was recently published about the case, and American TV crews have been filming at the site in recent weeks.

All that evidence, backed up by the word of the US Air Force, could not possibly have a rational explanation.

Or could it? Here are the facts that you have not been told.

Soon after the News of the World story appeared, I went in search of local opinions about the case. I made contact by telephone with a forester, Vince Thurkettle, who lives within a mile of the alleged UFO landing site. "I don't know of anyone around here who believes that anything strange happened that night," he told me.

So what did he think the flashing light was in Rendlesham Forest? I was astonished by his reply: "It's the lighthouse," he said.

That lighthouse lies at Orford Ness on the Suffolk coast, five miles from the forest. Thurkettle plotted on a map the direction in which the airmen reported seeing their flashing UFO, and found that they were looking straight into the lighthouse beam.

Could this really be the answer? I visited the site with a camera crew from BBC TV's Breakfast Time. On the way there, the cameraman was sceptical about the lighthouse theory. I didn't blame him.

It was gone midnight when Vince Thurkettle took us to the site of the alleged landing, and it felt spooky. The area had by now been cleared of trees as part of normal forest operations, but enough pines remained at the edge of the forest to give us a realistic idea of what the airmen saw that night.

Sure enough, the lighthouse beam seemed to hover a few feet above ground level, because Rendlesham Forest is higher than the coastline. The light seemed to move around as we moved. And it looked close — only a few hundred yards away among the trees. All this matched the airmen's description of the UFO.

The conclusion was clear. Had a real UFO been present as well as the lighthouse, the airmen should have reported seeing two brilliant flashing lights among the trees, not one. But they never mentioned the lighthouse, only a pulsating UFO — not surprisingly, since no one expects to come across a lighthouse beam near ground level in a forest.

So startlingly brilliant was the beam that the television cameras captured it easily. The formerly sceptical cameraman was convinced. My report was shown the following morning on Breakfast Time, much to the dismay of UFO spotters and the News of the World reporter.

The lighthouse theory soon had its supporters and its detractors. But there were still too many open questions for the case to be considered solved. For instance, what about those landing marks?

Some weeks later I returned to Rendlesham Forest in search of answers. The landing marks had long since been destroyed when the trees were felled, but I now knew an eyewitness who had seen them: Vince Thurkettle. He recalled for me his disappointment with what he saw.

The three depressions were irregular in shape and did not even form a symmetrical triangle. He recognised them as rabbit diggings, several months old and covered with a layer of fallen pine needles. They lay in an area surrounded by 75ft tall pine trees planted 10ft to 15ft apart — scarcely the place to land a 26ft wide spacecraft.

The "burn marks" on the trees were axe cuts in the bark, made by the foresters themselves as a sign that the trees were ready to be felled. I saw numerous examples in which the pine resin, bubbling into the cut, gives the impression of a burn.

Additional information came from other eyewitnesses — the local police, called to the scene by the Woodbridge air base. The police officers who visited the site reported that they could see no UFO, only the Orford Ness lighthouse. Like Vince Thurkettle, they attributed the landing marks to animals. The case for a landed spaceship was looking very shaky indeed.

What had made the airmen think that something had crashed into the forest in the first place? I already knew from previous UFO cases that a brilliant meteor, a piece of natural debris from space burning up in the atmosphere, could give such an impression. But I was unable to find records of such a meteor on the morning of December 27.

Here the police account provided a vital lead by showing that Col. Halt's memo, written two weeks after the event, had got the date of the sighting wrong. It occurred on December 26, not December 27.

With this corrected date, I telephoned Dr John Mason, who collects reports of such sightings for the British Astronomical Association. He told me that shortly before 3 am on December 26 an exceptionally brilliant meteor, almost as bright as the full moon, had been seen over southern England. Dr Mason confirmed that this meteor would have been visible to the airmen at Woodbridge as though something were crashing into the forest nearby. The time of the sighting matched that given in Col. Halt's memo.

Finally, I turned to the question of the radiation readings. I learned that readings like those given in Col. Halt's memo would be expected from natural sources of radiation such as cosmic rays and the earth

CONT... 12

...Unexplained Lights", dated 13 January 1981, and sent to the RAF. It said:

52(9)
(1 of 2 pages)

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300 L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metalic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

2. The next day, three depressions 1½" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

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CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

short, there was no
...diation at the site.
...s fo... star-like objects
the fi... paragraph of Col.
...lt's memo, they were prob-
...ly just that — stars. Bright
...lestial objects are the main

...plits in UFO sightings, and
...ve fouled many experi-
...ced observers, including
...lots. The object seen by Col.
...alt to the south was almost
...rtainly Sirius, the brightest
...ar in the sky.

If it seems surprising that a
...lonel in the US Air Force
...ould identify a star as a
...FO, consider the alterna-
...ves. Is it likely that a bright,
...ashing UFO should hover
...er southern England for
...ree hours without being
...otted by anyone other than
... group of excited airmen?
...nd if Col Halt really
...elieved that an alien craft
...ad invaded his air space,
...hy did he not scramble
...ghters to investigate?

UFO hunters will continue
... believe that an alien
...pacecraft landed in
...endlesham Forest that
...ight. But I know that the first
...ighting coincided with the
...urn-up in the atmosphere of
...n exceptionally bright
...eteor, and that the airmen
...ho saw the flashing UFO
...etween the pine trees were
...ooking straight at the Orford
...ess lighthouse. The rest of
...he case is a product of human
...magination.

DAILY EXPRESS

Enoch warns Irish over 'spy' radar

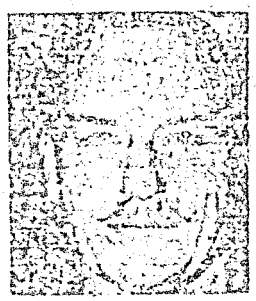
By JOHN WARDEN Political Editor

A NEW long-range radar system which can see over the horizon could be the turning point in Anglo-Irish affairs, Enoch Powell claimed last night.

The system, code-named Cold Witness, may be based in Britain and would greatly improve NATO surveillance of the strategically important waters around Norway.

It would, said Mr Powell, strip the Irish Republic of its importance for picking up early warning signals of Russian movements.

Mr Powell, Official Unionist MP for South Down, who was speaking in County Armagh, added that Ireland had previously been able to blackmail Britain and America into undermining the constitutional position of Ulster.



Mr Powell: 'Blackmail'

THE TIMES

Powell alert over Dublin's £800m radar defence

By Anthony Bevins
Political Correspondent

The development of a high-...vel radar system could strip ...e Irish Republic of its ...ategic influence over Britain ...d the United States, Mr ...noch Powell said last night.

Official Unionist MP said in ... speech at Markethill, Co ...rmagh, that the implications ... the little-noticed develop-...ent were revolutionary for ...orthern Ireland. It was the trump card which could mark a turning point in the province's fortunes.

Mr Powell said that so long as defence surveillance was limited by the horizon, the republic's position in the Atlantic was of outstanding strategic importance.

"Hence the elaborate microwave telecommunications system, unrelated to any possible domestic requirements, with which the republic is being provided at a cost of £800 million and which will be able to feed data into the so-called 'Backbone' network in Britain."

He added: "This importance of the territory of the Irish for strategic and intelligence purpose has endowed it since the 1960s with an ideal weapon for blackmailing the United States and, through the United States, Britain, into undermaining the constitutional status of Ulster and preparing the way for its absorption into an all-Ireland confederation.

"It has been a ruthless exercise directed at acquiring and protecting strategic assets in the island of Ireland and it has been conducted with typical cynicism and unscrupulousness from beginning to end."

But Mr Powell said that the end of that exercise was in sight, if the advance of defence technology and 'over-the-horizon' radar undermined the republic's position.

"If Britain, including Northern Ireland, can do the job itself just as well, there is no need to pay the republic blood money to have the job done somewhere else. Why send washing out, which you could so at home?

"Chill news indeed for FitzGerald and Haughey, chill news for the IRA and Sinn Fein: their wares will no longer be marketable, the days when they basked in the sunshine of British and American official countenance and co-operation will have gone by. The writing is upon the wall."

5 JAN 1985

E8

RAF Woodbridge (Alleged Incident)

Sir Patrick Wall asked the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he has seen the United States Air Force memo dated 13 January 1981 concerning unexplained lights near RAF Woodbridge;

(2) whether, in view of the fact that the United State's Air Force memo of 13 January 1981 on the incident at RAF Woodbridge has been released under the Freedom of Information Act, he will now release reports and documents concerning similar unexplained incidents in the United Kingdom;

(3) how many unexplained sightings or radar intercepts have taken place since 1980.

Mr. Stanley: I have seen the memorandum of 13 January 1981 to which my hon. Friend refers. Since 1980 the Department has received 1,400 reports of sightings of flying objects which the observers have been unable to identify. There were no corresponding unexplained radar contacts. Subject to normal security constraints, I am ready to give information about any such reported sightings that are found to be a matter of concern from a defence standpoint, but there have been none to date.

E7

Hansard Extract

13 March 1984

Cols 132 & 133

Unidentified Flying Objects

Sir Patrick Wall asked the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many alleged landings by unidentified flying objects have been made in 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1983, respectively; and how many have been investigated by his Department's personnel;

(2) how many unexplained sightings there have been in 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1983, respectively; and which of these had been traced by radar and with what result.

Mr. Lee [*pursuant to his reply*, 9 March 1984, c. 728]: For the years in question, the Ministry of Defence received the following numbers of reports of sightings of flying objects which the observer could not identify: 350, 600, 250, and 390. Reports of alleged landings are not separately identified. The Department was satisfied that none of these reports was of any defence significance and, in such cases, does not maintain records of the extent of its investigations.

US(AF)(E6)
25 FEB 1985

See (AS) (1 OF 6 PAGES)

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

21st February 1985

Dear Michael,

I enclose a letter I have received from Section 40 [redacted] of Section 40 [redacted]

I should be most grateful if you could let me have your comments on the points raised by this lady and if you could let me know whether your Department has investigated any of the incidents she describes.

Yours sincerely,

David Alton.

David Alton, MP.

The Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, MP.
Secretary of State
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1 2HB

Section 40

Section 40

12 February 1985

Dear Sir,

Please let me apologise for the time I take up in writing you this letter.Especially as I am not one of your constituents.(Although you are my closest Liberal M.P.). I write because I believe the subject is of concern to the British people and the Liberal party has demonstrated a respect for that.

I also note that Section 40 ,a BBC Radio Merseyside producer, has had a brief word with you on the subject of this letter a couple of months back. That fact, plus my genuine admiration for you (I have voted Liberal in every election since I became old enough in the unfashionable days of 1970) leads me to inquire if there is anythin you can do.

The subject concerns 'UFOs'. But please do not switch off at that. My approach to the subject is not (emphatically not) the "UFOs are spaceships piloted by little green men" angle Section 40 will support that.As will my several books on the phenomenon or my articles in the scientific press (see,for example,"New Scientist" February 1983).

Besides which I am not writing to ask you to defend the UFO spotters, a thing which might be politically unwise in view of some of the UFO spotters I know! The specific events with which I am concerned may not even be UFO related.But they certainly involve a serious witholding of information from the public by the present government and a possible attempt to supress a secret weapons mishap that wenton eight miles from Ipswich in December 1980.

It would be impossible to explain in a letter all the substance behind this matter. All I aim to do is give some background,some names of people you can check out to demonstrate that I am not talking through my hat,and then ask for some time to see you. I do appreciate how extraordinarily busy an M.P. must be, but if you can suggest a date I am willing to come to London where (if you can offer myself and a colleague an hour or so) we would like to show you documents,play some tape recordings and generally paint a more detailed background.Much of this material about the December 1980 events has been leaked to us by US government sources (but confirmed later by our own MoD),others involve data refused to us by the MoD and obtained in the USA (via the Freedom of Information Act) despite being official MoD property!

Briefly,my involvement began in January 1981 (about 4 weeks after the alleged incident) when a radar operator at RAF Watton breached the official secrets act and leaked to me a story concerning an object which they had tracked entering UK air space on 27 December 1980,and which had 'crashed' into Rendlesham Forest half a mile outside the perimeter fence of RAF Woodbridge (a NATO base leased by the MoD to the Americans,entirely staffed by the US Air Force flying A-10 bombers,but presided over by a British Squadron Leader as base commander). My radar source advised that USAF intelligence men had gone to Watton and examined the radar film of the incident a couple of days later (something that must have involved MoD permission). These USAF men had spun a fantastic yarn about the object being a "spaceship" and a communication between the Wing Commander of the unit (now a USAF Brigadier General Gordon Williams,who is based in Washington).

2...

Of course, not being one to believe a tale like this (whoever is telling it) I and some colleagues in East Anglia spent the next two and a half years trying to find out the truth. Within a few months we had come to the conclusion the UFO story had to be a blind leaked publicly as something which would be laughed at, in order to mask something extraordinary (and presumably rather nasty) which had really gone on.

The work since has involved tracking down the civilians involved, spending a great deal of time and money (even going to the USA), and interviewing military witnesses from Airmen First Class up to the Brigadier General. We found a lot of circumstantial evidence that civilians had been frightened off. Definite evidence that government officials had investigated the matter on 1 January 1981 by interviewing local civilians. Three USAF airmen (up to rank of Sargeant) who independently supported the story as offered by the Watton radar man. Plus many other airmen and higher rahks (including the British Squadron Leader Section 40 [redacted], three USAF Colonels, including the base commander and deputy base commander) who all affirmed that an unexplained event had occurred which involved an object crashing into the forest, flying about, being chased by a security patrol and taking off again leaving severe damage, radiation levels etc. These higher ranks all refused to acknowledge the alien nature of the craft or the alleged communication with Section 40 But they all insisted that it was something unknown to them. The USAF base commander said it was not American, British or Russian, but he had no idea what it was.

Naturally, we sought official confirmation of this. We have letters and tape recordings with people involved. The MoD (via their department handling such enquiries, DS 8) denied any knowledge of the events. Later when knowledge was admitted (after we produced their own document, obtained via the US Freedom of Information Act) they suggested it must have been temporarily mislaid at the times when we approached them (Feb/March 1981 and October 1981). All of which is odd since when we had our first official appointment to see the British base commander (on 18 February 1981, just six weeks after the events) he thought we were from the MoD to interview him! He was clearly expecting an investigation. (For reasons later proved when the MoD document was released to us - this base commander had forwarded, with a covering letter, the official base report on the incident to the MoD files just four weeks previous to our visit).

In early 1983 I published several papers on the case, and the results of our investigation so far. This included an interview with the US science journal "Omni". That appeared in March 1983. Within four weeks I suddenly had a letter from the MoD department DS 8 now (after over two years) admitting that they did have records on such an event, that it was unexplained, and that there was no question at all of it involving "alien beings" (inverted commas their use) or being a cover for a crashed aircraft carrying a nuclear bomb (a theory I postulated) or the testing of secret devices (something I had never suggested to them or in any article). This had been part of a quote from me in OMNI, however. The DS 8 officer was now (just a month after publication in the USA) refering me to this magazine article, without in her letter indicating I am quoted by it!

When I received this letter (13 April 1983) two other dramatic things happened at once, after two years of stalemate and bluffing. A USAF Colonel Section 40 [redacted] gave an interview to OMNI admitting it was a real unexplained phenomenon but shooting down any talk of aliens, and along with him Squadron Leader Moreland officially confirmed the incident too! Also a US airman trotted out into the public domain (and created a front page article in that eminently 'credible' source the News of the World!) talking a load of bull about alien contact on the base. Voice Stress analysis on hi

/...

as seemingly demonstrated what we believed all along.Either he is a paranoic jumping on the bandwagon (or as seems more likely in view of the background facts) he was put up to this by US government sources to rescue the flagging UFO "nuttters" theory in the face of the danger that the real truth would get out.

The second event was official support from the Pentagon confirming (in similar terms to the Mod) that the events had happened and were unexplained. They then released to us a memo (allegedly with MoD permission!) which was signed by then deputy base commander (Lt Col Charles Halt) and reported direct to our MoD:- TWO incidents,both involving unexplained UFOs,both witnessed by many USA personnwl (including Halt himself),and the first (being the original event we knew all about) having left tree damage,symetrical holes in the ground,and radiation in the holes and on the trees.It had also upset nearby farm animals (we discovered from one farmer whose cattle were hit by a taxi when scared by the object that he was paid sufficient compensation to clear off out of the area and buy a new farm in Devon!)

There are numerous problems about this memo,not counting the question as to why the MoD had denied this to British citizens,even denied its existence, but according to its covering letter endorsed its release to US citizens under their FoI act! One is this mysterious second incident, never before mentioned by any of our witnesses (despite the report itself attesting that many more people were a party to it than to the events of 27 December) (The MoD admission to me of 13 April,just two months before this memo release in the USA,was paradoxical as it talks only of the first night and makes no mention of the second...it is also,at best,misrepresenting the truth,because it is plainly based on the above refered to memo yet talks of "lights" when the memo describes a triangularcraft of very specific dimensions, and says not one word about the tree damage,animal effects,symetrical holes in the ground or radiation levels officially refered to!)

The second major problem with the memo is that it is dated 13 January 1981, 17 days after the events.The MoD insist this is the only data on their files and thus their first record.Yet the local interrogations occurred 12 days prior to this as did the the USAF intelligence visit to the RAF base at Watton (which must have had MoD approval).

We took the MoD memo to Whitehall (on the pretext that we had a file,denied tous previously, but released to Americans under FoI, so we were not sure if we were in breach of the official secrets act by possessing it).At the MoD we were told we were not in contravention,had the memo confirmed as in MoD possession,and had it insisted that they had not released it to the US government for FoI release, despite the cover letter with its release from the US government saying exactly the opposite!

The News of the World story then appeared and a sequence of "shoot it down" stories have followed, suggesting that it was a lighthouse at Orford Ness. The calibre of news media promoting these stories is strange,in view of the usual lethargy about UFO matters "The Times" (3 Oct 1983),"The Guardian" (as recent as 5 Jan 1985) etc. However, the MoD, the base itself, and all the officers involved absolutely refuse to acknowledge the lighthouse theory.They still insist (in writing) that the event is unexplained. Not that the media sources mentioned above are taking any notice of this .And believe me we have tried to get a serious media source to counteract these blatant "cover-up" stories.

A tape recording has even now been released to us,recording the events of the second night.This includes the taking of site photographs,samples of irradiated bark and soil, geiger counter monitoring of the damage and traces, and a detailed

discussion of these things by several USAF officers (including the deputy base commander,head of base security,and on duty night commander).Later on the tape a UFO reappears which evidently is the Orford Ness lighthouse.But the tape also clearly illustrates that the senior officers are acting !

This tape has been officially confirmed by several senior officers on the base (including the last three base commanders!).Yet in writing under Freedom of Information,the US government have denied its existence.So have our own MoD. Both these parties also refuse to acknpwledge the existance of the photos and samples,as plainly recorded on the tape.

As I said right at the start this is a complicated business.And I can only scratch the surface of it here.But it seems to me (remaining as objective as I can) that something happened which the MoD and US government want to hide.To do this they have been willing to use a crazy UFO tale as a convenient smokescreen and possibly even comply with fabrication of evidence and testimony (certainly to obscure the truth from British citizens)

Major Sir Patrick Wall,of the defence committee, has asked questions in the house But these followed the News of the World codswallop and,despite my briefing him beforehand,were frankly the wrong questions to ask. Section 40 (the same man in the dock over Belgrano right now) responded and did nothing but admit that the government had seen the Halt memo to the MoD. Patrick Wall backed off. I spoke to him last November and he refused point blank to ask any more questions,on the grounds that four years ago is too long back into the past!

Former chief of staff at the MoD and admiral of the fleet,Lord Hill-Norton, has also been of partial help and been briefed.But he prefers the quiet life and says there is nothing he can do.

This leaves us with one of two positions.The evidence clearly suggests something did happen,capable of damaging and irradiating civilian land.The official position remains that it is unexplained. Are the government really ignoring an unexplained intrusion by an irradiating object,right next to one of our NATO bases? If so I cannot be satisfied.

The other option is that the lighthouse theory is true. If so, then it means that senior USAF officers have mutually complied in a conspiracy to protect their incredible incompetence. They not only mistake a lighthouse (which has been there for decades) as a triangular craft flying around the forest and landing for two hours! They also cannot tell whether tree damage and holes in the ground are real or not. They do not know whether radiation levels are normal or not. And their investigations and MoD investigations are so inept they cannot spot the very same lighthouse, which continued to be exactly where it was night after night.

This implies something remiss about our base commander policy at NATO bases, which I think causes grave concern for European security. For all three US commanders (1980-1984) are party to the above (as fabricators and conspirators, not just fools). So is the British base commander. So is the MoD for endorsing the appointments.

One thing these media stories saying "it was a lighthouse" have all missed is this. Lt Col Charles Halt, deputy base commander, signatorey of the MoD memo, witness to the events, instigator of the tape, was promoted to full Colonel the very week the News of the World story appeared. A few months later, when the "it was a lighthouse"

Best wishes,

Section 40

" MINISTERY OF DEFENCE "

" DEPARTMENT D.S.8."

Section 40 [redacted]

7/8/86.

DEAR MR, Section 40

I am sending you some information on the " RENDELSHAM FOREST CASE IN DEC 27th 1980" the information i am sending is in the for m of a tape for which is only a part of the incident.

IT tells of the talk between charles halt, lt and later colonel and his men in the forest when they first seen the craft and ther e reaction. if you listing to the tape very carefully you will hear that one of the men has a gigger counter and it is at three clicks which is three rems, the most dose that a nuclear power station worker can get is 5 rems over one year but these men got a dose of 3 rems in a couple of minutes so i would not like to see what was the affects on them.

SO i am sure that it was not a light-house that was the cause of the incident as light-houses don't give off radiation so it was not to blame, and halt did refare to a craft which was just 4 feet of the ground and moving about .

I would be intrested if you write back now and still say that the mod have no top-secret file on this incident , i would only be too happy to sign the offical secrets act if you give me the information that i know that you all ready have in file so please dont write back and say that you still dont have any information becouse i know that the mod have it may not be in ds8 files but it is sum where in the mod.

I will be very intrested on yout thoughts about this tape and what is said on it , .

I WOULD BE VERY GRATEFULE IF YOU COULD GIVE ME A ANSWER TO THIS LETTER WITHING THREE WEEKS .

YOUR'S SINCERELY.

Section 40 [redacted]

To:- Sec(AS)2
Room Section 40
with compliments

Copy of letter
received 22/7/86

Aeronautical Information Section (Military)



London Air Traffic Control Centre (Military)
Royal Air Force
West Drayton
Middlesex UB7 9AU

West Drayton Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted] FS
DUTY AMSO(N)

E4

WEST YORKSHIRE METROPOLITAN POLICE

Your Ref:

Our Ref: A21/JLC/IM

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX 9, WAKEFIELD WF1 3QP
Telephone: Wakefield Section 40 Extension Section 40

17 July 1986

The Ministry of Defence
Duty Controller
Aeronautical Information
Services (Military)
R.A.F. WEST DRAYTON

Dear Sir

Enclosed for your information are copy statements about an incident which occurred in the Kirklees Division of this Force on 10 July 1986.

Yours faithfully

Section 40 [redacted]

Senior Administrative Officer

WEST YORKSHIRE METROPOLITAN POLICE

(E3)

Reference: (1 of 2 PAGES)

MINUTE SHEET

Subject

U.F.O. Sighting.
Varley Road.
Slaithwaite. 10.7.86.

Station: Slaithwaite. Date: 12.7.86.

Sub. Divisional Officer, Holmfirth.

I have to report that at 09.00hrs. Friday 11th, July 1986, I attended Section 40 [redacted]. There I spoke to a woman Mrs Section 40 [redacted] Housewife, born 3.3.1912. She stated to me that at 3.40pm, Thursday July 10th, she was in the kitchen of her home which overlooks fields in the direction of Manchester Road. She was looking out of the kitchen window in this direction when her attention was drawn to something moving in the field from her left hand side. She looked in total amazement as she saw this to be an object which she described in the following manner

Grey in colour, 15 to 20 feet in length, cylindrical and cigar shaped, travelling some six feet above the ground, from left t right at a very slow speed some 15 to 20 feet away from where she wa standing. The object was producing a low mechanical humming sound. The informant is convinced that this was not an illusion, that the object was airborne, that it was metalic and was indeed travelling slowly from its own power. She saw no wings,markings or windows. The object passed by the window out of sight in the direction of Varley Road and the fields beyond.

Mrs Section 40 [redacted] who id the daughter of Mrs Section 40 [redacted] was also in the house at this time. She heard a low pitched humming sound from outsid but was in another part of the house and could not confirm her mother statement. After being told whathad been seen both women ran out into the garden. There was no trace of the object.

Section 40

Mrs [redacted] to me appeared to be a comletely reasonable person and is totally convinced of what she saw.

The house is quite isolated, the nearest property being some 200 yards away. On the day in question a number of low flying military aircraft were seen in the area. A search was made of the surrounding fields in the direction the object is alleged to be travelling with no result

This report is submitted for your attention. Section 40 [redacted] P.C. Section 40 [redacted]

Slaithwaite. 12.7.86.

Section 40 [redacted]

F.A.E. copy to NIQ. [illegible] 15/7/86

P.T.O.

irector of Administration

Submitted for your information and onward transmission to the Ministry of Defence, Duty Controller, Aeronautical Information Services (Military) RAF West Dryton.

Section 40

Superintendent
Holmfirth
15.7.86

WEST YO. H
POLICE
16 JUL 1986
HEADQUARTE
ADMINISTR

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

E2
file
12/3
(1 OF 2 PAGES)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference

Date 30th May 1986

Dear Mr Section 40

Thank you for being so patient in waiting for a reply to your various letters; as we have discussed on the telephone we are unable to give priority to UFO correspondence and other more pressing work has had to take precedence.

You asked for details of the UFO reported by an RAF pilot in 1967 which I mentioned in my last letter to you. The only information I have been able to find on this incident is that the pilot of a RAF Victor aircraft reported sighting a UFO on 13 July 1967. I am sorry that this is not very extensive but hope that it will be of some use to you.

You enclosed, with your letter of 2 April, some correspondence concerning the "Air Ministry Secret Intelligence Summary" (Vol 10 No 3). I was interested to see this and, following my enquiries, somewhat surprised to hear that you were unable to obtain a copy of the article from the PRO. I understand it is available there (the reference is Air 22/93). Nevertheless, I attach a copy, with apologies for the fact that it is not a very good one; it has been taken from a bound volume and has therefore suffered some distortion. I found the piece quite interesting, particularly since much of it is still relevant today. As you know we no longer investigate every UFO report to the extent to which the Air Ministry obviously did in the early fifties; but this article, of which I was previously unaware, makes the reasons for our current policy quite clear.

In your letter of 10 December 1985 you mentioned a report of a sighting in Regent's Park on 20 September last year. I have checked our records for that time but find that we received no reports at all for that day. Thank you, nonetheless, for sight of this report. I was also interested to see the report of Mr Burtoo's alleged encounter. We have no record of corresponding reports which might support this story. There was certainly no report submitted to us by the MOD Police concerning the incident.

With regard to your request for the sketch of a UFO submitted by Harrow Police in June 1984, despite my initial optimism, I am unable to provide this for you. Whilst we in MOD would have no objection to its release, this is, essentially, a matter for the Metropolitan Police. I have therefore been in touch with the area press office who confirm their earlier advice to you that the sketch cannot be released. I understand that the constable responsible has been approached and has asked that no further publicity be given to this report. If you wish to pursue your enquiries further, I can only suggest that you approach the Met once again.

I am sorry that I have had to deal with these various enquiries together, however, having done so, I think it worth stressing that the MOD interest in the subject is limited to those sightings which are directly relevant to the air defence of the UK (the enclosed article explains this quite well.) As you will no doubt appreciate, our Air Defence system is constantly alert and is geared to respond to infringements of British airspace. These are operational matters which we cannot of course discuss but all reports from members of the public of unidentified objects in our airspace are dealt with as part of this system and not as a separate issue. It follows that, to be of use to us, such reports must be made immediately. The majority of reports received here are, however, 2 or 3 days, often weeks, old and we simply cannot devote public funds to the detailed investigation of such sightings when no threat to national defence has been demonstrated.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

[redacted]

Central Independent Television plc
Central House
Broad Street
Birmingham B1 2JP

Telephone [redacted]
Telex [redacted]
Cables and telegrams:
Television Birmingham

CENTRAL

PP/MH

23 May 1986

Section 40
DPS (RAF) Ltd.,
Room Section 40
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London SW1A 2HB

Dear Section 40

Following our telephone conversation today, please find enclosed a list of questions to be put to the Minister during our interview with him on Wednesday, June 4th.

Section 40 will telephone you towards the end of next week with the names of the Central personnel involved. Thank you for all your help. I look forward to meeting you on the 4th.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Enc:

Section 40

E1/1

(1 of 2 PAGES)

UFO INTERVIEW:

Questions for the Minister

1 Why will the MOD not release UFO information for scientific or other investigation?

2 What are MoD criteria for establishing defence implications or otherwise in the case of UFO sightings?

3 What are the procedures followed when a UFO sighting is reported to the Mod?

4 Are any of these sightings actually investigated or merely put on file?

5 If further investigation is made, who makes it?

6 Is there a British UFO investigation unit based at RAF Rudloe Manor in Wiltshire?

7 Is there such a unit based anywhere else in the UK?

8 Has there ever been such a unit in the UK in the past?

9 Is there any international co-operation between the MoD and other Governments on UFO intelligence?

10 If there have been no defence implications concerning the thousands of UFO reports made to the MoD over the years, what conclusions has the Ministry reached?

11 Did the MoD assist the House of Lords UFO Study Group?

Cont/.....

12 A former Chief of the Defence Staff, Lord Hill-Norton, says major investigations into UFOs have been conducted by the United States and other Governments and it is inconceivable that such an investigation has not been conducted here. Is this the case?

13 Numerous sightings have been made over the years by airline and military pilots, police officers and other professional people. Many of these reports would, on the face of it, have defence implications. Why does the Ministry think otherwise?

14 UFO investigators say the MoD is involved in a massive cover-up. Is this the case? If not, why do you not shut these people up once and for all by providing access to the information they seek?

15 If the Ministry's first and only knowledge of the RAF Woodbridge affair was the Col Halt memo dated January 13th - 17 days after the alleged incident - is the Ministry not concerned, in the light of the information contained within that memo, that it was not consulted by the American authorities much sooner?

16 If the MoD feels there were no defence implications in the Woodbridge incident, does it consider Col Halt was hallucinating, insane or merely lying?

17 If the Ministry subscribes to any of these theories relating Col Halt, why did it sanction his promotion from deputy to base commander subsequent to the incident?

18 Would you give any credence to the notion that the UFO phenomenon has been exploited to cover up sensitive military operations?

MH

MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE SUPPORT

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)1
20 MAY 1986
FILE

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Min(DS)DGT 19/6/4

Sec(AS)2

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Sec.(AS)2
20 MAY 1986
FILE 12/3

Copy to:
AUS(DS)
DST1
D Air Def
GE3
DI55c
DPF(RAF)

Section 40 [redacted]

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS - CENTRAL TELEVISION INTERVIEW

Thank you for your minute of 14 May concerning the request from Central Television to conduct an interview for inclusion in a 45 minute programme on UFOs. Minister(DS) is content to undertake this, and we shall be in touch separately to arrange a suitable time.

Section 40 [redacted]

PS/Minister(DS)
MB 6379 2452 MB

20 May 1986